

MPs say armed forces have been reduced to danger level

Britain's ability to provide adequately equipped forces to maintain Nato's deterrent role against potential Warsaw Pact aggression has been seriously impaired by recent cuts in defence spending, according to the all-party Commons Expenditure Committee. Cuts in equipment and the burden of garrisoning Northern Ireland are cited as the main causes of concern.

Effects being felt by front-line troops

Arthur Reed, Correspondent

The cumulative effects of cuts in British defence spending have reached the point where the Armed Forces are being seriously deprived of equipment to maintain conventional capacity to deter the Warsaw Pact acts of aggression and to early recourse to nuclear weapons, according to a report by the all-party Commons Expenditure Committee, published yesterday.

The committee believes that cuts have been and are being increasingly felt only by the Services' support structure but also by front-line troops. That is the view expressed in the committee's report, which was published yesterday.

We consider that the needs made on the army frequent, arduous and rigorous spells of duty in Northern Ireland, and on the Royal Navy of longer periods at sea, are imposing strains on both Services and their families. The committee also states that the need to draw on British troops of the Rhine units to maintain an adequate garrison in Northern Ireland has created a serious shortage of troops in the front line of Nato, it says.

Mr Callaghan, the Prime Minister, has said that the committee's report is "a warning to the Government to resist reducing numbers of the Armed Forces further, the committee says. We consider the existing numbers too low. Any further reduction would have grave consequences on the morale and capabilities of our armed forces."

Defence papers the committee has drawn up a catalogue of recent equipment cuts which, in its view, impair Britain's capability within the Nato area. It includes:

- Army. Cancellation of the RS80 long-range artillery project; reductions in the number of Galleon and Lynx helicopters; deferment of the replacement of the helicopter-borne anti-tank guided weapon system.
- Navy. Cancellation of amphibious commando ships and the Ikara anti-submarine missile improvement programme; reductions in destroyers, frigates, conventional submarines, mine-countermeasure vessels and naval fuel; deferment of the Sea Skua missile.
- RAF. Cancellation of the QC 434 short-range air-to-air missile project and of radar and communication projects; reductions in Jaguar strike/attack aircraft, the air transport force, communication aircraft and engineering spares; deferment of medium-lift helicopters for army support; reductions by up to a third in the delivery of the Tornado multi-role combat aircraft.

The committee expresses concern at the inadequacy of the air defence of forward BAOR troops and says Jaguar and Tornado cuts have seriously impaired the RAF's strike and offensive support capability.

In the case of the deferment of delivery of the Tornado, designed to replace up to five existing types, the danger was not simply that the numbers needed would not be achieved quickly enough, leaving an operational deficiency, but that the aircraft would be obsolete before the last of them was delivered.

Second Report from the Expenditure Committee, House of Commons Paper 254, (Stationery Office, £1).

Confused ending to a convoluted debate

Lough Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent

The debate of the Government's public expenditure White Paper ended in a vote of 201 in the Commons last night, after the Government backed away from a division to save the embarrassment of a defeat.

Significant numbers of wingers threatening to abstain to show displeasure at the Government's spending cuts, or ministers decided not to vote, were technically on a tie, but the Government won when the Government's division figures were announced and Opposition cheers and shouts of "No!"

Callaghan and Mr Healey among ministers who sat tight on the division on the matter from bench as a result of their followers' not going through the motions. As a result of the Government's division, the House immediately without going on to the Government business would have been the third stage of the Repeal of the People Bill.

Mr Healey's debate on Mr Healey's plans had got off to a slow start.

Thatcher demanded to from Mr Callaghan, why

he was the first Prime Minister since the war who was too afraid to put his White Paper proposals on public expenditure directly to the House on a direct motion for a direct vote. Mr Callaghan retorted that the Tory leader had been pressing the Government for months to cut public expenditure and now that the Government had responded favourably she was threatening to vote against the cuts. Was the right hon. lady not being a little hypocritical?

As Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, the shadow Chancellor, took up the cry, the Tories were told by Mr Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, that he could not see why they were making such a fuss over such a petty procedural point. But everyone else in the House could understand.

Sir Geoffrey at once began turning cartwheels to find reasons for forcing a division. It all boiled down to the fact that the cuts were all right but that the Government had placed a disproportionate burden on reducing capital expenditure.

Mr Barnett retorted that to continue to spend more than we earned was a recipe for disaster. Public expenditure was under more effective control than for many years and it carried little weight for the Tories to shout for more cuts while demanding greater expenditure on such things as defence, the police, Northern Ireland, the construction industry and pensions.

Parliamentary report, page 6

Judges reject move against deportation order by Mr Mark Hosenball

Edward Tandler, Affairs Reporter

Mark Hosenball, the Canadian journalist facing deportation on grounds of national security, yesterday lost the first of his battles to defeat deportation order in the High Court.

Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, sitting with two other judges, rejected his application to quash the deportation order on the ground that the Home Secretary had broken immigration law after the two-day hearing. Hosenball said he would appeal to the Court of Appeal.

In a judgment lasting nearly half an hour Lord Widgery covered that point and the matter of applying natural law to the procedure of representation. He said: "One of the rules of natural justice requires the person accused to have a full, fair disclosure of the case against him. The rules of natural justice do not always apply in their full rigour. They apply to full courts, but in other tribunals one finds they apply in part only."

Change in Act: The Government plans to introduce changes to the Official Secrets Act in the next session of Parliament, Mr Arthur Lewis, MP for Newham, North-west, said yesterday after seeing Mr Rees.

Law Report, page 23

Government starts review of Leyland future as toolmakers go back

By Paul Roudledge, Labour Editor

The Government yesterday set in train its threatened review of the future of British Leyland as the three thousand striking toolmakers whose industrial action plunged the state car concern into economic uncertainty voted to end their four-week-old unofficial stoppage.

Officials of the Department of Industry and the National Enterprise Board, which acts as the public holding company, moved into the company's headquarters in Marylebone Road, London, to assess the long-term damage of the dispute, which has already cost the only British-owned motor manufacturer about £50m.

British Leyland management is reopening all its car plants on Monday morning and will seek maximum shopfloor backing to get production lines moving again in an attempt to mitigate any rundown in the Government's financial backing for new projects and trouble some parts of the existing car-making division.

At separate meetings in Cowley, Birmingham and Liverpool the tool room men voted overwhelmingly to end their strike on the basis of a peace formula agreed by their shop stewards, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and Leyland management. It provides for immediate talks on wage anomalies between different plants and on the erosion of pay differentials caused by the TUC-Government income policy.

The tool room strikers' unofficial representatives will be present at these talks, but they have not been given the separate bargaining status they demanded under a new collective bargaining procedure. Working groups for manual and white-collar employees will consider their grievances and make recommendations for implementation when the present phase of incomes policy expires.

Mr Roy Fraser, chairman of the unofficial shop stewards' committee that led the strikes, said after the Cowley men had voted: "There will be a full return to work on Monday."

That being the case, British Leyland management is dropping its threat of dismissal, and the 21 unions of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, which joined forces in the company's ultimatum, will press for recognition of the men's case.

The extent to which the company will be able to meet the skilled men's claims for the restoration of differentials and the ironing-out of wage anomalies between plants will depend on the outcome of the Government's review of Leyland's financial prospects.

The Department of Industry said two days ago: "Whatever happens, a review of British Leyland will now be needed. How drastic it will be will depend on the speed with which full production is restored."

Leyland management expects that it will take two weeks for the strikebound plants, where 46,000 men have been laid off, to get cranked up again to anything like normal production levels, and perhaps six weeks before the Government's target of 20,000 units a week is reached.

But the immediate risk to jobs is thought to be slight. The British car market is critically short of most Leyland models, and the company's first priority will be to shift cars into the showrooms to regain its traditional share of United Kingdom sales.

The long-term risk is to the overall size of the company and to the prospects for new models, particularly the redesigned Mini. It needs £250m investment, chiefly from public funds, and is feared to be the front-line casualty in any cut of government finance precipitated by the strike and Leyland's other labour troubles.

How much the tool room dispute has damaged the prospects of a third year of pay restraint was emphasized yesterday by Mr Moss Evans, executive officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, who was a party to the union-management deal to break the strike. He said: "The need to return to normal collective bargaining is a prerequisite in resolving the problems at Leyland."

"Once we are able to get down to the job of bargaining effectively we can talk in much more detail about participation in British Leyland. We have now had a twelve-month experiment and there is no question at all that the institutions that the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions set up with the leading stewards of the unions in Leyland are beginning to 'teak'."

Mr Evans, widely regarded as the most likely successor to Mr Jack Jones as general secretary of the TGWU, added that much of the Leyland decision-making process was as remote as ever for most shop stewards, and there had to be an investigation of the "worker-participation" machinery to determine its effectiveness and accountability.

"In the meantime the need for British Leyland management and shop stewards to get together and plan the settlement of outstanding problems to be effected after July is a must," he said.

Photograph, page 3



The Queen declining a request for her autograph by Dennis Lillee, the Australian fast bowler, at Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday. She met the teams before England's dramatic 45-run defeat in the centenary Test match. Colin Cowdrey writes, page 22.

McMorrow arrest dispute is likely

From Christopher Walker, Belfast

Acrimony between the Irish and British governments over extradition is likely to reappear after the arrest in London of Mr Kieran McMorrow, the man once named by Scotland Yard as Britain's most wanted terrorist.

Last night Mr McMorrow was being questioned by Irish Special Branch detectives at Swanlinbar, Co. Cavan. He was arrested after an exchange of fire between three suspected Provisional IRA men and a joint Irish army and police patrol.

The shooting occurred at a cottage near the town late on Wednesday night after the Irish security forces had surprised the men during a routine search. Two escaped and Mr McMorrow was captured.

Although Mr McMorrow is wanted for questioning in connection with terrorist outrages in Britain, including the M62 coach explosion in 1974, Irish legal experts believe that an attempt to extradite him to England would fail.

In the past attempts to extradite wanted Provisional IRA men and women from the republic have been frustrated by the Irish courts on the ground that their offences were political or connected with political offences.

Last summer a joint fugitive offenders-law was introduced in Dublin and Westminster to try to close the loophole. It enables suspects to be tried on either side of the border for several terrorist offences. Its provisions apply between the English mainland and the Irish Republic for conspiracy to cause explosions.

Lack of extradition procedures remains a main source of friction between the two governments.

Full debate on Annan broadcasting report

There is to be a full debate in the Commons on broadcasting after the publication of the Annan report, expected next Wednesday or Thursday. Mr Foot, Leader of the House, agreed to the debate, to cover the report and the possibility of an increase in the BBC licence fee, two matters raised by Mr Jonathan Aitken, Conservative MP for Thanet, East, in calling for the debate. The report, which took two and a half years to prepare, is described in Whitehall as monumental. Fundamental dissent is confined to a single item in the concluding section but there are individual reservations throughout on certain points. It is, however, believed to be a tamer document than could have been expected a year ago; its recommendations on the BBC, for example, are thought to be less radical than some of the committee members would have liked.

Evidence to committee, page 5

War of words in 68 are killed for Jumblatt death

Financial advisers to Scottish and Universal Investments took the surprise step of dissociating themselves from the deal which gave the Lornbro group effective control of Sun, and brought Mr Roland 'Tiny' Rowland, Lornbro's chief executive, to the chair. One incoming director has condemned the merchant bank involved.

Page 25

Housing link with delinquency

Poor housing, without inside hot water or lavatories, doubles the chances that children will play truant and become delinquent, according to a Shelter report based on the national child development study.

Page 5

Lanzarote death mars Gold Cup

An Irish horse, Davy Lad, won the Cheltenham Gold Cup in a race marred by the death of one of the favourites, Lanzarote, who broke his hind leg and had to be destroyed.

Page 23

Terrorist trial talks bugged

Conversations in Germany's Saarheim prison between lawyers and the accused terrorists in the Baader-Meinhof trial were bugged on the orders of two ministers in the state government of Baden-Wuerttemberg. Judges have adjourned the trial.

Page 7

Arts, page 10

Irving Wardle on *Bedroom Farce* (Lyttelton Theatre); William Mann on *Wentworth* (Coliseum); Alan Cavan on *The Black Knight* (Thames); David Robinson on new films in London.

Business News, pages 24-30

Stock markets: In a strong session the FT index rose 5.8 to 433.8 and gilts rose over 11.

Financial Editor: Money supply; High tax at BP; Option money for Slater; Walker shareholders; Making sense at Lex Service.

Business features: Melvyn Westlake discusses worries over the developing world's growing indebtedness; The successful British development of acoustic wave devices is described by Kenneth Owen.

Business Diary: Chartered surveyors put themselves up for inspection.

Carter human rights stand 'commitment and not just posture'

From Peter Strafford, New York, March 17

President Carter made a strong statement of his attitude on human rights when he appeared before the United Nations tonight.

He told the assembled diplomats that the United Nations should do more about human rights violations, and affirmed that his Administration intended to speak out on such issues.

Mr Carter, who has previously criticized the treatment of dissidents in the Soviet Union, South Korea and elsewhere, said American responsibility and support for human rights was a commitment and not just a political posture.

Every member of the United Nations had pledged itself to President Carter. "Thus no member of the United Nations can claim that mistreatment of its citizens is solely its own business."

"Equally, no member can avoid its responsibilities to review and to speak when torture or unwarranted deprivation of freedom occurs in any part of the world."

Mr Carter's speech tonight was his first formal statement of his overall foreign policy objectives since he took office in January. He did not go into much detail on his intentions, but he set out his aims in what he said were his three main areas of concern—the maintenance of peace, including disarmament, international economic affairs, and human rights.

The United Nations, he said, had allowed its human rights machinery to be ignored and sometimes politicized. There was much that could be done to strengthen it, and he made specific suggestions.

The Human Rights Commission, based in Geneva, should be prepared to meet more often than it does now; and he thought that the whole human rights division of the United Nations should be moved back to New York from Geneva, because it would get more attention there.

Mr Carter also supported the proposal of a United Nations commission on human rights.

He tacitly acknowledged that the new American emphasis on human rights could make difficulties, particularly in relations with the Soviet Union. But he said that the issue was important by itself, and that it should not block progress on "other matters affecting the security and wellbeing of our people and of world peace."

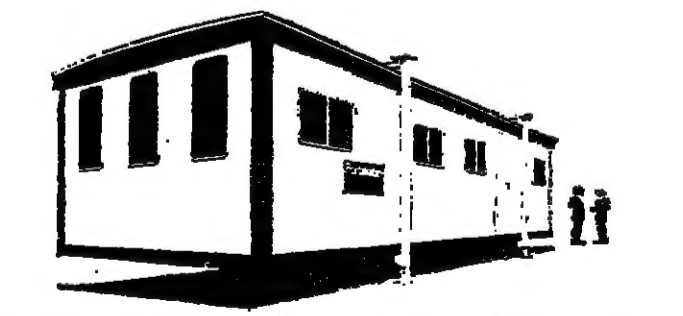
"It is obvious that the reduction of tension, the control of nuclear arms, the achievement of harmony in troubled areas of the world, and the provision of food, good health, and education will independently contribute to advancing the human condition."

Mr Carter spoke only briefly on the Middle East, saying that the Americans were trying to work towards "a flexible framework" for a settlement. On southern Africa, he described American aims as majority rule through peaceful means, and pointed out that the United States had just taken action to end its violation of sanctions through the import of chrome from Rhodesia.

He intended to pursue the strategic arms limitation talks (SALT) with the Russians with determination and energy, he said. His preference was for "strict controls or even freeze on new types and new generations of weaponry, with a deep reduction in the strategic arms of both sides."

If this was not possible at this stage, there was the alternative of a more limited pact based on those elements of the Vladivostok accord on which it was possible to find agreement. More contentious issues, such as the Soviet Backfire bomber and the American Cruise missiles, could be set aside for later.

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HOME NEWS

Chrysler director's anger over role in Labour Party film

By Christopher Thomas

Mr Peter Griffiths, deputy managing director of Chrysler UK, is taking legal advice after appearing on all three television channels on Wednesday night in a Labour Party political broadcast.

He said last night: "I feel very annoyed. I have been used. At no time was I told that a film was being made for political purposes."

Mr Griffiths was interviewed by Mr Geoffrey Robinson, MP for Coventry, North-West, a former senior executive of Jaguar cars. Mr Griffiths said he was unaware that he had appeared nationally on television until he arrived home late in the evening and was told by his wife.

"This is professionally damaging, because when you are in my position and you look after industrial relations you have to be scrupulously about keeping free of any political side. This is very damaging to one's career. The reaction of colleagues has varied from ribald humour to extreme surprise that I had taken part in such a programme."

Mr Griffiths said he had been told the film aimed at improving the image of the motor industry and that it was being made on behalf of the Government. Mr Robinson had visited the company's plant on several occasions. He has had a long interest in the company's progress in the Midlands.

After discussions yesterday with the managing director, Mr George Lacy, Mr Griffiths decided to tell newspapers that "the whole thing was nonsense". He said: "I have never at any time been my permission to the producers of the film or the television networks to use this film in support of political objectives. It would be unprofessional for him to associate publicly with any political party."

Mr Griffiths said the film was made at the beginning of March after the subject had "cropped up" with the managing director. "Our public relations director today approached the Labour Party, who said they were surprised. We are considering further courses of action."

Mr Griffiths said solicitors had been consulted both by Chrysler and himself. He has been in his present post for two years and was previously director of industrial relations and personnel.

Mr Robinson said last night that he did not wish to comment but the feeling in Labour Party circles was that there had been a misunderstanding. Leaders of other companies have readily agreed to be interviewed, although they were not used in the programme as it appeared. The party pointed out that the broadcast was favourable to Chrysler and the general view was that there had been a failure in communication.

Police broaden inquiry into riot at Hull prison

By a Staff Reporter

Humberide police have broadened their investigation into last summer's riot at Hull prison to look into nearly a hundred allegations by prisoners of assault. It is thought that their inquiries will take several months to complete.

The investigation, under Det Supt Ronald Sagar, began in February after about twenty Hull inmates lodged complaints with the police of assault by officers during and after the riot. Preliminary inquiries have resulted in 80 more allegations being made.

Now the police have widened the scope of the inquiries by attempting to interview all 300 prisoners involved in the riot. They recently visited Worm-

wood Scrubs and Strangeways prisons, where some men were transferred after the uprising. Mr Sagar said a Hull solicitor representing 12 of the aggrieved prisoners, said last night that the police inquiries were likely to result in legal action on behalf of the prisoners. "I am impressed by the thoroughness of the police investigations, and legal proceedings are a probable outcome of them," he said.

The findings of Humberide police will also be referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Their inquiries are being conducted independently of a Home Office inquiry into the incident, now nearing completion.

Conditions in jails, page 20

Broadcasting plan delay

By Our Political Correspondent

Arrangements for broadcasting the proceedings of both Houses of Parliament are being held up because the Treasury is refusing to sanction the expenditure for permanent accommodation of the staff and equipment needed at Westminster.

The BBC had been prepared

to erect its own temporary huts on the only convenient site available, at the side of the lawn, surrounding the Oliver Cromwell statue on the west side of Westminster Hall.

There have been serious aesthetic objections to that plan, and Mr Foot, leader of the House, has made plain that he agrees with the objections.

The city with nearly half its homes in need of repair and 15,000 derelict

From John Young
Planning Reporter
Belfast

For a quarter of a century Mr and Mrs Samuel Dodds have lived in the same terrace house in Apsley Street in the Protestant Danelagh district of Belfast. It measures little more than 12 ft square, the lavatory is in the back yard and they pay £170 every fortnight to their landlord, who lives round the corner.

The houses on either side are empty and bricked up. Twenty-three of the other 44 houses in the street are also bricked up, which is by no means unusual by Belfast standards.

It awaits the bulldozer, Apsley Street has found a temporary role as a car park for commuters who can walk to their offices in the city centre only a few minutes away. Yet the only reason the Dodds want to leave is because their back wall is dripping with damp.

Across the river in Short Strand about 3,000 Roman Catholics occupy an enclave of

a dozen or so streets in what is otherwise exclusively Protestant territory. They could not leave if they wanted to because there is nowhere for them to go.

Belfast's housing difficulties, horrendous even before the emergency began seven years ago, are now appalling. Out of the total stock of about 123,000 dwellings, nearly half are in urgent need of repairs or replacement. Fifteen thousand other houses are derelict.

There are 30,000 names on the waiting list, and there would be more if many Catholics thought it was worth applying.

Since 1970 public sector programmes have produced about a thousand new houses a year. In the same period about 25,000, both publicly and privately owned, have been destroyed or damaged, and more than £160m paid in compensation. Sixty thousand families, more than a tenth of the city's population, have been forced out of their homes by threats or violence. Squatting is endemic and the Housing Executive, which is responsible for the entire hous-

ing sector, is owed at least £3m in rent arrears.

Mr Carter, Under-Secretary of State in the Northern Ireland Office responsible for the environment, was, if anything, understating the situation when, in a speech last December, he described the housing crisis as alarming and unparalleled elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

After Mr Carter's speech the Government announced a £130m five-year programme to tackle the worst areas of deprivation. It was a belated recognition that intolerable living conditions lie close to the roots of hatred and violence, and that the earlier decision to flatten and blight much of the central area to make way for an urban motorway could scarcely be equalled for crash short-sightedness.

The motorway project has been abandoned, and in the Housing Executive's offices grandiose schemes for wholesale demolition and redevelopment are being quietly forgotten.

For the first time green lines are being drawn round sections of maps of the city indicating

housing action areas where rehabilitation will replace the bulldozer.

Yet, even with Mr Carter's undoubted commitment, and the enthusiasm of the young officials of the department and of the executive, difficulties remain. Given the extent of the situation, £130m does not seem very much; it would pay perhaps for 10,000 new houses or twice as many renovations.

Officials reply that there is no lack of money. The immediate intention is to double present spending of about £12m a year. If the programme is successful, more funds will simply be diverted from other sources.

The Government expects to be able to stimulate a parallel programme of private building for the future. The programme will also be able to build for sale. Significantly, also, the role of the private landlord appears to be tolerated: officials admit that widespread improvements are out of the question while the present pre-war rent levels continue.

The greatest difficulty is

sectarianism. Nobody talks hopefully of mixed housing estates any more, but the sad fact is that Protestants can be rehoused relatively easily in outlying estates, but there are no equivalents for Catholics.

The hideous post-war Catholic estates built by the former Belfast corporation—Ballymurphy, Andersonstown, Turf Lodge and Divis—are notorious for vandalism, overcrowding and violence. Better schemes, such as Twinbrook, have also run into trouble, and the proposed Poleglass estate, which would permit much decaying housing in the crowded areas of west Belfast, is bitterly opposed by hard-line Protestants as an incursion into their territory.

Nor are all Protestants happy with the executive's plans for their future. The programme is seen as politically motivated, the object being either to get rid of the ghettos or, more ominously, to destroy the remaining Protestant enclaves in Catholic territory and vice versa, as official sectarianism has been the facta partition of the city.

Whitehall delays 'hindering fishery protection vessels'

By Hugh Clayton

Delays by government departments that might impede fishery protection work were criticized by a committee of MPs yesterday. A survey from Manchester University said some fish could cost 10 times as much in shops as on the quay.

The House of Commons Expenditure Committee said that in November last year the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food did not know how much of the British catch had come from within 12 and 50 miles of the coast in 1975.

Full information was vital in delicate and far-reaching negotiations about limits in the EEC, the committee said. It called the Government's performance "less than adequate."

The committee issued an interim report yesterday based on work by its subcommittee on trade and industry. It suggested that rules for examining foreign boats caught fishing in British waters might be "less than satisfactory."

It quoted the case of a sea fisheries inspector of the ministry who boarded a French vessel in January. He had to wait almost four hours for instructions from London. Such delays were far too long, the committee said. They prevented protection vessels from continuing their patrols.

A further weak point in British defences against encroachment on national fish stocks was found in Scotland. In January, the committee said, a Faroese vessel was held and

the skipper charged. A relief crew took the ship away after local officials had been told that it could not be held.

"For some 24 hours Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland headquarters did not advise the local fishery officer about the legal position," the committee said. "When they did their advice was wrong." The vessel could have been held and the catch confiscated.

Dr Edmund Marshall, chairman of the subcommittee, said yesterday that it would watch the adequacy of protection measures. The available resources are being very thinly stretched over a vast area of sea.

Shop prices of about double the quayside price for such popular fish as cod and haddock were recorded in a survey published yesterday by the Department of Agricultural Economics at Manchester University.

Mr Trevor Young, the survey author, wrote: "The margins which have been computed between the prices paid by fish firms and fishmongers and the prices paid by the final consumer are in the order of 30 to 40 per cent of the retail price."

He found by comparing quay and shop prices of mackerel and herring without accounting for costs of preparation that "the mark-up was found to be approximately 90 per cent of the retail price". Mr Taylor quoted "mark-ups" of more than 40p in the pound in prices between fishmongers and firms and their customers.

Third Report from the Expenditure Committee, 1976-77 (Stationery Office, 35p); Demand for Fish, bulletin 158, (Manchester University, £1.50).

Mr Paul Foot arrives in Stechford for first tilt at parliamentary seat

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

Mr Paul Foot arrived yesterday on the scene of the Stechford-by-election in Birmingham. It is the first time since the age of 40, at a parliamentary seat, and only the third by the Socialist Workers' Party, the other two being at Newcastle, Central, and Walsall, North, last November, when they gained about 2 per cent of the vote. In all probability Mr Foot will maintain par for the course.

But being a journalist of some style and ability, and a man who never uses one word when he can get in two, he intends to make a contribution that will undoubtedly be in inverse proportion to his support on March 31.

He headed in his nomination papers with five other contenders yesterday.

The seat that Mr Roy Jenkins held since its formation in 1950 and through nine general elections until his departure for the presidency of the EEC should provide a similar, if less safe, vehicle for Mr Terence Davis, aged 39, the Labour candidate.

Stechford's commitment to Labour, the virtually fifty-fifty division between council and privately owned housing and the 14.5 per cent swing needed to win the seat at this stage too much for Mr Andrew Mac-

Kay, the Conservative candidate, to surmount.

Mr Davis, MP for Bromsgrove and Redditch between 1971 and 1974, has an air of assurance and political maturity that Mr Mackay, aged 27, cannot match.

Both men, like Mr Graham Gossell, aged 38, the Liberal, have a good working knowledge of the car industry at various levels; Mr Davis as a manager with British Leyland, Mr Mackay as a former salesman on the retail side and Mr Gossell with three years' past experience on the production line at Longbridge.

British Leyland and its difficulties are endemic to Birmingham as a whole and in particular Stechford, which has five of its factories and many thousands of its workforce. It is certain that the present troubles and the prospects of the company will play a part in the campaign.

It is expected that the economy and rising prices will be the foremost topics raised. It is not certain how big a part immigration will play.

Mr Davis is a member of the coloured community in the Alum Rock-Selly Oak area of the constituency is between four thousand and six thousand, with Asians predominating.

Mr Davis and Mr Gossell are liberal on the topic, but Mr Mackay has had 30,000 leaflets

on the subject distributed and says that immigration is second only to prices as a central issue.

The National Front candidate, Mr Andrew Bruns, has promised an intense campaign on immigration control and against the EEC.

Mr Brian Heron, a shop steward at British Leyland who is representing the International Marxist Group, calls for an end to the social contract, for full employment and working-class unity against racism.

Two candidates were missing when nominations were handed in yesterday, but they have until Monday. Mr Robert Reif, Independent White People, was last reported to be driving a bus in Luton and it was uncertain whether he would appear. Mr Sidley Wright would represent New Britain.

General election, October 1974: R. Jenkins (Lab) 23,073; D. Wedgwood (C) 11,152; G. Gossell (Lib) 5,860; Lab maj, 11,923.

Wage curbs: Wage restraint is vital but not in the Government's restrictive form, Mr E. Heath said in Stechford last night (the Press Association reports).

"Strong inflationary pressure still exists. For this reason it is vital that a further period of wage restraint is achieved."

Army chief calls up UDR troops

More than three hundred members of the Ulster Defence Regiment were called out for emergency full-time duty yesterday because of the present wave of violence sweeping Co Londonderry.

Lieutenant-General Sir David House, GOC Northern Ireland, called out F and G companies of the 5th Co Londonderry Battalion for seven days. The men and women of the companies will go out on patrol, and carry out road blocks and searches.

They will assist the 1,300 regular troops in the area. There are several more companies of the UDR in the county available for full-time service if needed.

Co Londonderry has recently suffered attacks against UDR members and businessmen. On Tuesday a UDR man was shot dead and a policeman wounded, and on Wednesday an elderly man was shot dead. Yesterday a bomb exploded under a UDR man's car as he was about to drive his daughter to school. Neither was hurt.

In west Belfast, however, a man was shot dead and his son, aged 10, was injured outside a public house in Shankill Road.

Mr James Kilfedder, Ulster Unionist MP for Down, North, in a letter to Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said yesterday: "At present there are about 14,000 troops in Northern Ireland, of whom only about four thousand are on the ground fighting terrorists at any one time." He asked him to increase the number to 25,000.

At Cork, in the Irish Republic, Mr Peter Barry, Minister for Education, refused to review a St Patrick's Day parade because, he said, he had seen a group of uniformed IRA members in dark glasses taking part. They were from Fionna Eireann, the Provisionals' junior wing.

Union refuses membership to Mr Bevan

By Tim Jones
Labour Reporter

Political differences over the appointment of Mr Andrew Bevan, a Trotskyist, as the Labour Party's youth officer caused a split in the Transport and General Workers' Union to refuse his membership application.

It is a condition of Mr Bevan's employment that he must belong to an "appropriate union". He was recruited into the Transport House branch of the union in January, but now the normally unitary number one union has decided that his application would be inappropriate.

Power-station waste heat for homes envisaged

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

One of the most ambitious experiments in energy conservation involving a large city of up to a million people is suggested in a report published yesterday by the Department of Energy. The idea is to test a large scheme in which waste heat from a power station is used by homes, shops, schools, hospitals and offices.

The technical and economic arguments for such a project estimated to cost more than £300m, is contained in District Heating Combined with Electricity Generation in the United Kingdom.

Introducing members of the working group who compared the study with Mr Cunniff, junior minister at the Department of Energy, said there were also important political issues in choosing or convincing a city that it was a good

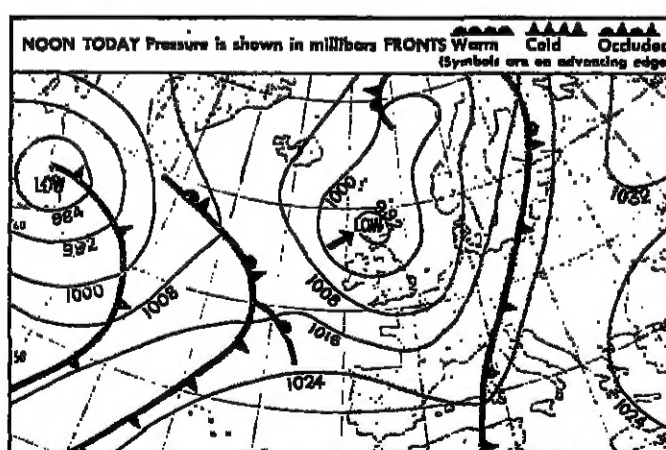
candidate for wholesale conversion.

The case for combined heat and power rests on the enormous savings in fuels that are expected to double in price over the next 18 years.

Less than a third of the energy in the fuel supplied to a large modern electricity generating station is delivered as electricity to the consumer. Most is rejected as tepid cooling water at about 25°C at this time of the year and is pumped from a large 2,000 megawatt station at about 1,200 million gallons a day, similar to the average flow of the Thames at Teddington.

This tepid water is far too low a temperature for district heating networks, which use water between 60°C and 120°C. Nevertheless, the energy rejected from a single large station would meet the heating needs of about a million people if it was at a high enough temperature.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 6.58 am
Sun sets: 6.10 am
Moon rises: 5.28 am
Moon sets: 5.4 pm

New Moon: Tomorrow
Lighting up: 6.40 pm to 5.36 am.
High water: London Bridge, 12.41 am, 6.7m (21.9ft); 1.10 pm, 7.0m (22.9ft); Avonmouth, 6.25 am, 12.1m (42.9ft); 6.45 pm, 12.0m (42.6ft); 10.08 am, 6.3m (20.6ft); 10.36 pm, 6.5m (21.3ft).
Hull, 5.19 am, 6.9m (22.8ft); 5.27 pm, 7.1m (23.3ft).
Liverpool, 10.19 am, 6.1m (20.0ft); 10.48 am, 9.0m (29.4ft).

A depression near N Scotland will drift slowly E, with a shower of rain or drizzle over most areas.
Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:
London, East Angles, E Midlands, SE, S, E, N and NE England, Channel Isles: Sunny intervals, showers, some heavy; wind W or SW, becoming W; max temp 10°C (50°F).
W Midlands, Lake District, SW and NW England, Isle of Man, N Ireland: Sunny intervals, showers, some heavy; wind SW, fresh or strong, becoming W; max temp 10°C (50°F).
Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, Argyll, SW Scotland: Sunny intervals, showers, some heavy; wind SW, fresh, becoming W moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).
Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals, showers, some heavy, perhaps wintry over high ground; wind S, moderate becoming variable; max temp 7°C or 8°C (46°F).
Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Sunny intervals and showers, rain reaching SW during Sunday; temps mostly near normal.

Sea Passages:
S North Sea: Wind S veering SW, fresh or strong; sea moderate to rough.
WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY
MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; s, sun.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	13	10	c	13	10	c
Edinburgh	12	10	c	12	10	c
Glasgow	12	10	c	12	10	c
Belfast	12	10	c	12	10	c
Cardiff	12	10	c	12	10	c
Manchester	12	10	c	12	10	c
Liverpool	12	10	c	12	10	c
Birmingham	12	10	c	12	10	c
Nottingham	12	10	c	12	10	c
Leeds	12	10	c	12	10	c
Sheffield	12	10	c	12	10	c
Newcastle	12	10	c	12	10	c
Southampton	12	10	c	12	10	c
Bristol	12	10	c	12	10	c
Exeter	12	10	c	12	10	c
Plymouth	12	10	c	12	10	c
Cardiff	12	10	c	12	10	c
Belfast	12	10	c	12	10	c
London	12	10	c	12	10	c

Cabinet step nearer decision over EEC polls

By Our Political Reporter

The Cabinet had further discussions yesterday on the proposed consultative White Paper on direct elections to the European Parliament. But no final decisions were taken.

The Government, however, intends that the White Paper, which will set out several options on electoral procedures, shall be published before Easter and that a debate shall be held in the recesses.

Although preparation of the White Paper by Mr Rees, Home Secretary, and officials is well advanced it has yet to be completed. The Cabinet therefore was not in a position to reach absolute decisions on its contents or presentation.

Martin Huckerby writes from Edinburgh: Mr Christopher Tugendhat, making his first speech in the United Kingdom since his appointment to the European Commission, yesterday warned the Government about the need for a Bill to allow direct elections.

Addressing a meeting in Edinburgh, Mr Tugendhat said that in Europe, he did not specifically mention Britain or the Labour Government's deep divisions over direct elections, but his message was uncompromisingly clear, and likely to reach the Government.

"Let there be no doubt whatever that any national government that sabotages European elections by failing to bring forward the necessary legislative proposals will be depriving both its own citizens and those the rest of the Community of what ought to be an inalienable political right."

Mr Healey appeals for extended agreement on pay

An end to falling living standards is foreseen by Mr Healey, the Chancellor, if he can get another year of agreement on wage policy.

Speaking on BBC television last night, he said that if the pound remained stable and if he was able to take the measures that he wanted in his Budget and get further agreement on wages, living standards would cease to fall or even rise slightly over the course of the year, by which he presumably means the 1977-78 pay year.

That would end three successive years of falling living standards.

The Chancellor, who was discussing pay policy with a studio audience, also seemed to suggest that he might try to offset the difficulties of narrowing differentials through his Budget measures.

Mr Healey said that if he could not get another round of agreed policy with the unions there was a prospect of a falling pound, rising interest rates, and a policy which would lead to higher inflation. The first stage of the policy had halved the rate of inflation, but the second stage had taken place against a background of rising prices.

What he wanted, he said, was to move towards a less formal pay policy which would be operated in West Germany. He hinted that he wishes to get a much more flexible pay policy this year, preferring a percentage agreement.

'Times Educational Supplement'

As a result of unofficial action by members of the UAW maintenance staff, 65,000 copies of The Times Educational Supplement will not be published today.

How not to lose any sleep over an early morning flight.

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مكتبات الأصيل

Cabinet nearer decision on EEC poll

HOME NEWS

Disabled drivers may get lump sums instead of allowances

Our Social Services correspondent reports that a new scheme is expected to be introduced which will help disabled drivers to buy their own four-wheel vehicles. The Government's policy is to provide a grant of £1,500 to buy a car, but this is only available to those who are unable to drive. The new scheme is expected to be introduced in the next few months. It will allow disabled drivers to buy a car and then claim a lump sum of £1,500. This will be a significant improvement on the current system, which only provides a grant of £1,500 to buy a car. The new scheme will also allow disabled drivers to claim a lump sum of £1,500 if they are unable to drive. This will be a significant improvement on the current system, which only provides a grant of £1,500 to buy a car.

to inspect a prototype vehicle that might replace the bicycle. Mr Morris is looking at several possible replacement vehicles, but he does not feel able to place any orders until it is clear how many people will want one. There are now about 21,000 tricycle drivers who can keep their vehicles as long as spares last. But more people choose the £5-a-week mobility allowance instead of the tricycle fast year, before it was known that no more were to be issued. There is no intention to extend mobility help to more than the 100,000 expected to benefit from the weekly allowance. Most of Britain's 1,250,000 severely handicapped adults are over retirement age, and Mr Ennals believes they should be helped through better pensions. The mobility allowance, which is taxable, is expected to go up to £7 a week in November and to be increased later in time with inflation. The Government hopes that it can provide enough money by commencing the allowance into lump sums, with tax and other concessions, to enable most eligible disabled people to buy their own vehicles. Mr George Wilson, director of the central council, said yesterday that, although pleased with the negotiations, he was irritated that the Government was talking about negative sums of money for disabled people, while pouring much larger sums into the ailing car industry.

Revision of rises in student fees ruled out

By Diana Geddes
Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, emphasized yesterday that a revision of the recommended increases in students' fees for 1977-78 is not possible. She made her view clear in a letter to Sir John Habakkuk, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, in which she invited them to discuss the question of fees with her and to put forward their views on where else the necessary savings in education spending could be achieved in 1978-79. Both the rare-support grant settlement and the universities' recurrent grant for the coming year (to be announced shortly) assume that the new levels will apply. She therefore felt that the committee's decision, taken at its meeting last week, to concentrate on measures to alleviate individual hardship was the right response. She has asked the University Grants Committee to commend that decision to the universities. Further savings in education spending had to be achieved in 1978-79. Those generated by the 1977-78 fee levels were unlikely to suffice. The size of the gap, and the way in which it would be filled, however, were "unsettled questions".

Protest call: Students at Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham, yesterday rejected a motion urging an occupation in protest against education cuts. Robert Williams, a former soldier, was jailed at Bristol Crown Court yesterday for life for the shotgun murder of James Donald Spence, aged 63, the father of the woman with whom he was living. Mr Williams, aged 26, shot him during a struggle at a petrol filling station, near Axbridge, Somerset, on November 29 last. He denied the murder charge but the jury returned a majority verdict of 10 to two of guilty.



Members of the British Leyland toolmakers' strike committee at the meeting in Birmingham Town Hall yesterday at which members voted to return to work on Monday. The decision was overwhelming.

'Life' for shotgun killing at petrol station

Robert Williams, a former soldier, was jailed at Bristol Crown Court yesterday for life for the shotgun murder of James Donald Spence, aged 63, the father of the woman with whom he was living. Mr Williams, aged 26, shot him during a struggle at a petrol filling station, near Axbridge, Somerset, on November 29 last. He denied the murder charge but the jury returned a majority verdict of 10 to two of guilty.

MP taken ill after threats to his family

Mr Thomas Litterick, Labour MP for Birmingham, Selly Oak, was being treated in the coronary care unit of Warwick Hospital yesterday after being taken ill the previous night. A police guard was placed on his home at Kenilworth, Warwickshire, on Wednesday after telephoned death threats to Mr Litterick's wife and four daughters. A hospital official said the MP, who is 47, was in a satisfactory condition.

GLC wants national agency for pollution control

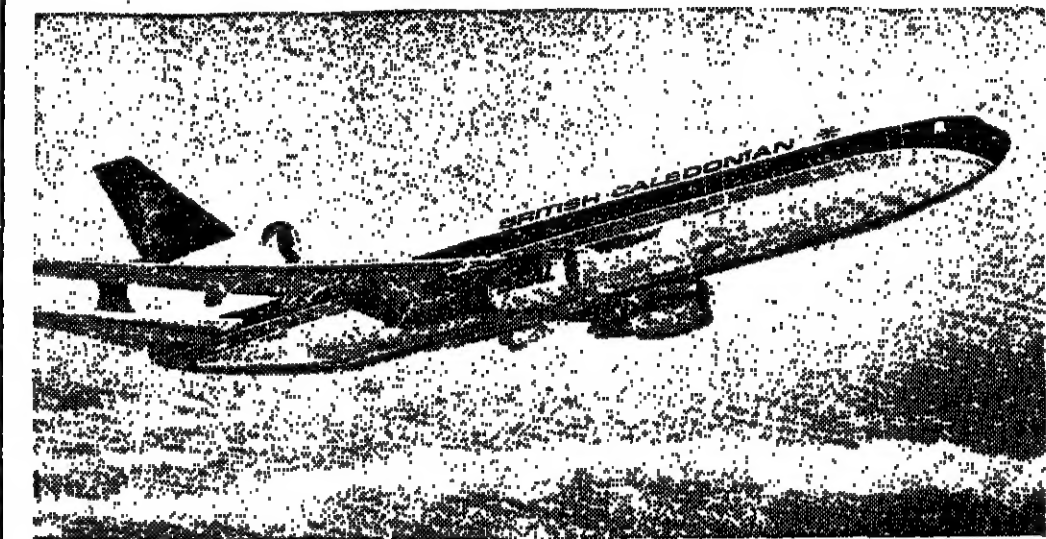
The setting up of a national anti-pollution agency is demanded in a report of the Greater London Council issued yesterday. The report, by the council's public services committee, says present policy is only "tinkering with an existing unsatisfactory system". A national agency is needed to provide pollution control "appropriate to a modern industrialized society". Mr Arthur Edwards, chairman of the committee, said control of pollution is an international matter yet control at a national level had not even been established.

"Under our present fragmented system, with the responsibility split among a government inspectorate, local authorities, the police, the Civil Aviation Authority and the Department of the Environment, we shall go on suffering from an almost haphazard mixture of chemicals in the atmosphere. For years the GLC has advocated an air quality management approach to pollution control."

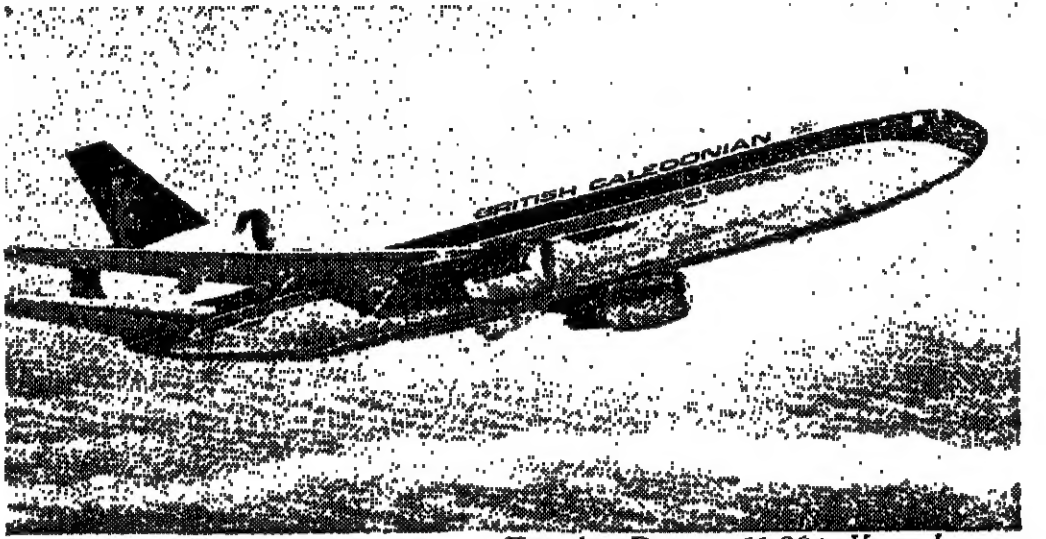
Rail journeys in 1975 lowest since 1900

Robert Parker
The number of passenger journeys made in 1975 on British railways was the lowest since 1900, and the combined length of all journeys as among the lowest figures in 75 years, it is reported in a book of British transport statistics, published yesterday by the Department of Transport and other government bodies. The publication contains nearly two hundred pages of statistics. There is no explanatory or interpretative text. The figures show that in 1900 there were 1,115 million rail passenger journeys. In 1975, the last year covered in the book, there were 715 million passenger journeys. The greatest number of passenger journeys since 1900 was made in 1920, when there was a total of 2,185 million. There has been a faster rate of decline in the number of journeys since 1960, although a combined distance of all journeys has declined less rapidly. For example, in 1900 there were 1,037 passenger journeys, with a total combined distance travelled of 34,646 million passenger kilometres. In 1975 there were 715 million passenger journeys and a total of 30,300 million passenger kilometres. Over the period covered there has been a marked decline in freight traffic. In 1900, 427 million freight tonnes were carried. In 1975, the total is 176 freight tonnes. As in the case of passengers there has been a faster rate of decline in the early 1960s. The total volume of private transport reached a peak in 1973 of 360,000 million

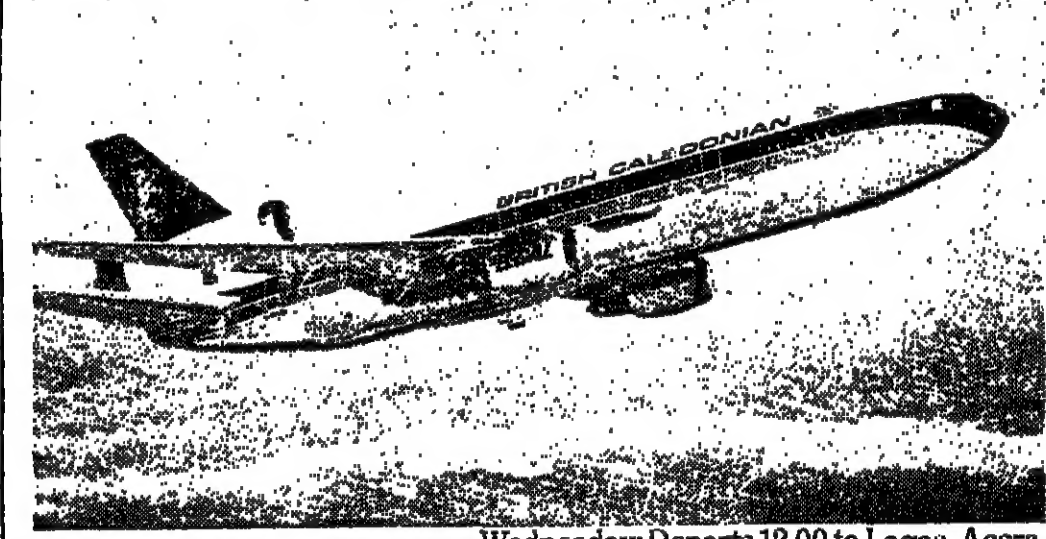
passenger kilometres, when growth was affected by the fuel crisis. By 1975 it had fallen to 337,000 million passenger kilometres. The fuel crisis does not seem to have affected the number of private licensed vehicles. In 1975 there were 14,061,000, compared with 13,806,000 in 1973. In 1926 there were 696,000 licensed vehicles. The figure of a million vehicles was reached for the first time in 1930, two million in 1948, three million in 1954, four million in 1956, five million in 1959, six million in 1961, seven million in 1963, eight million in 1964, nine million in 1965, reaching 14 million in 1975. In that year there were 1,173,000 motor cycles and mopeds, 114,000 public transport vehicles, 1,813,000 goods vehicles, and 182,000 Crown and exempt vehicles. The total number of vehicles of all types in 1975 was 17,884,000. Users' total expenditure on road freight transport in 1975 was £8,820m, and on rail £341m. The corresponding figures for passenger transport were £3,414m (road) and £524m (rail). Of that spent on road passenger transport £190m went on taxis and hired cars, £865m on buses and coaches, and £7,359m on motoring. Two fifths of the last figure was on business. Of the good moved in Britain in 1975, 67 per cent went by road, 17.1 per cent by rail, 13.4 per cent by coastal shipping, 0.1 per cent by inland waterway, and 2.4 per cent by pipeline. Transport Statistics Great Britain 1965-1975 (Directorate of Statistics, Department of Transport, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3EB: £5.50).



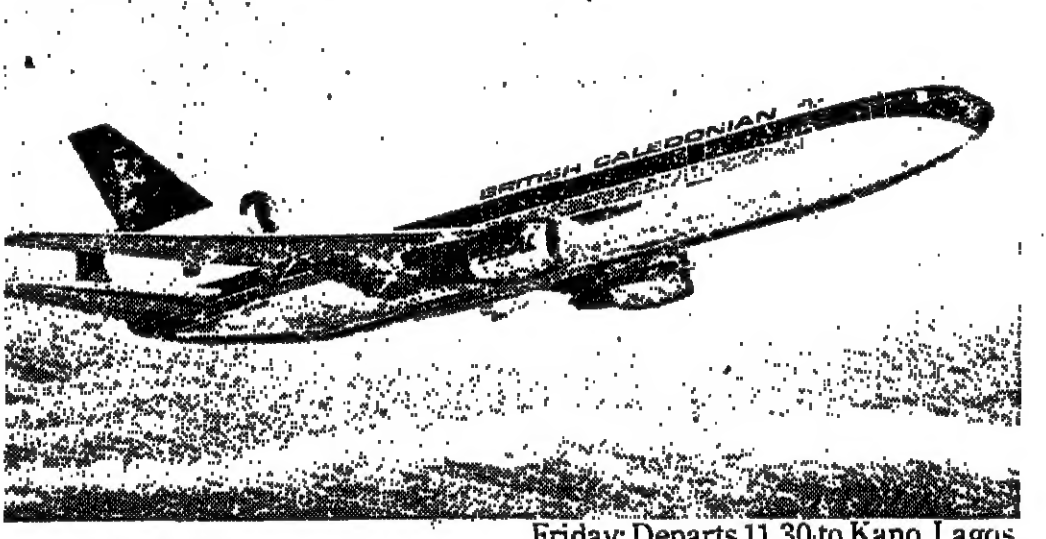
Monday: Departs 12.00 to Lagos, Accra.



Tuesday: Departs 11.30 to Kano, Lagos.



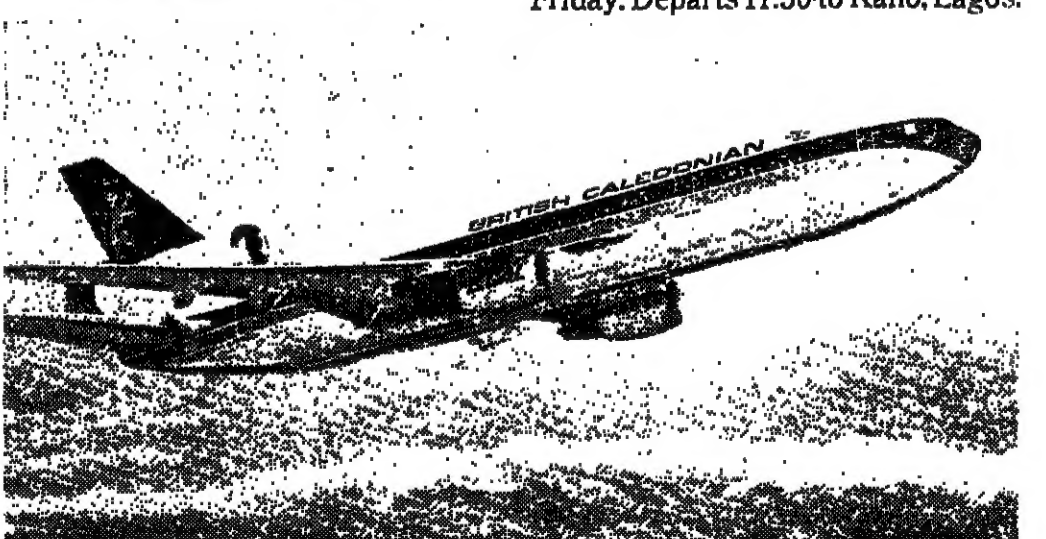
Wednesday: Departs 12.00 to Lagos, Accra.



Friday: Departs 11.30 to Kano, Lagos.



Saturday: Departs 11.30 to Accra, Lagos.



Sunday: Departs 11.30 to Kano, Lagos.

Police wives to lobby MPs on pay claim

Clive Borrell
More than four thousand wives of policemen plan to march on the House of Commons on Monday in support of their husbands' £6-a-week claim. The marchers, many of them intending to carry banners, have been given permission by the Metropolitan Police to form a Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, 1.30 pm. They will be escorted to Parliament Square, where they intend to lobby. One of the organizers said last night: "Our husbands are not allowed to take this sort of action, but we feel angry because our housekeeping money is getting less and less each week. We do not want our husbands to go on strike."

Self-help plan for the depressed

A self-help plan for sufferers of depression was put forward at a conference in London yesterday. It came from a group called Depressives Associated, which believes that there are other ways of treating the ravages of depression than by a mass of pills. Mrs Janet Stevenson, the organization's founder member, who is a retired nurse, said: "Pills may be necessary in the treatment of some kinds of depression, but we have found that they seldom help in most cases. We very much want to promote the idea of help through contact with other depressives and through mental stimulation rather than tranquillization."

25,000 at Evelyn sale or Gibbons table

Huon Mallalieu
The first item from the John Evelyn collection to reach the market, the Grinling Gibbons table, was sold at Christie's yesterday for £25,000 (estimate, £2,000 to £3,000). It was bought by Haden, who is a collector and the rarity of price and estimate is indication of its historical value. The furniture sale made a total of £59,067, with 3 per cent bought and a small carpet section added £26,225, with 16 per cent old. Asprey paid £5,500 for a George III mahogany writing table and a circular writing table. A mahogany hanging net, Christie's also held a sale of laret and white bordeaux, with as in many cases about twice the price. A case of 1913 £100 "Rox" making £340. Lucan furniture: Furniture from the Belgravia home of Lord Lucan fetched a total of £4,840 at Christie's yesterday.

£3,800 for a diamond dress ring (estimate £2,500 to £3,500). The same auctioneer sold a pair of earrings, which brought a total of £30,256, with just under 5 per cent bought in, and books, which made £23,073. At Sotheby's Belgravia a sale of English ceramics made £44,919, with 2.8 per cent bought in. On Wednesday afternoon Sotheby's Parke Bernet sold jewels in New York, making \$62,725 (£269,026), with lots unsold. The success of T. R. G. Lawrence, the Crewkerne auctioneer, in selling four paintings by Cornelius Krieghoff, the Canadian painter, for a total of £67,000 last November brought them three more, which were sold yesterday. "Blinking the Toll", a sleigh bucking past a tollbooth keeper, made £19,500. In the same sale an Alpine landscape by Johann Gottfried Steffan, dated 1868, made £11,500. World stamps: The first day of Stanley Gibbons' two-day all-world stamp auction totalled £34,500, with an unused Australia 1913 £1 "Rox" making £340. Lucan furniture: Furniture from the Belgravia home of Lord Lucan fetched a total of £4,840 at Christie's yesterday.

Day by day by day by day by day by day by DC-10

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HOME NEWS



Mr George Wheatley (left), harvesting rhubarb, which has its season advanced through indoor forcing to produce quick growth, on his farm near Wakefield, West Yorkshire. Indoor rhubarb costs about 24p a pound now, about twice as much as English potatoes.

Guarantee on jobs sought by students

By David Walker, of The Times Higher Education Supplement

Students' leaders said yesterday that unemployment among young people would have dire political consequences unless the Government changed its economic strategy and expanded job opportunities for those aged between 16 and 21.

The National Union of Students called for a state guarantee of either a job or continued full-time education for two years for school and college-leavers. In a report on youth unemployment the union called attention to the probable growth of joblessness among young people in the late 1970s.

Mr Charles Clarke, president of the NUS, said: "If the Government does not act quickly young people will be driven away from acceptance of the procedures of democratic society. There will be grave economic and social degeneration if the Government does not deal with growing apathy and depression among unemployed young people."

The students' case is based on a reinterpretation of existing figures for college-leavers six months after they graduated in 1975. The NUS says they showed that 15 per cent of polytechnic graduates and 9 per cent of university graduates were still seeking permanent employment at that time. The central service unit for careers services, which collates employment statistics for universities and polytechnics, has issued figures of 8 per cent and 5 per cent for these categories.

The NUS says its figures show that the Government should produce a coherent programme to help jobless school-leavers and college graduates.

The education debate: Parents' views are not being represented at one-day regional conferences Concern over discipline and performance

By Tim Devlin, Education Correspondent

The voice of the average parent is not being represented at the Government's regional education conferences, the fifth one of which is to be opened by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State, in Birmingham today.

No parent, speaking as a parent rather than an employer, had so far risen during any of the one-day discussions to complain about school discipline or levels of performance.

Yet in Woolworth's cafeteria in Peterborough last week one parent in two complained about informal teaching methods that allow children to come and go to school as they please.

This fifty-fifty disquiet was reflected also in public houses and coffee bars, in conversation with people in the streets, and at two parents' meetings in the evening. Yet it was not represented at the conference floor, where many parents took part.

The parents I spoke to viewed schools subjectively: if their child was doing well, schools today were doing a good job; if not, they were failing.

Teachers were a bunch of young long-haired louts, and the standard of education was not what it had been in their day.

The friends of the education system. They know more about what is going on in schools but they also know more about the difficulties teachers face and make allowances for them. They are also mainly middle-class, and their children are for the most part getting a "good deal".

Both Mrs Williams and Mr Oakes, her Minister of State, have emphasized that tales of truancy and indiscipline have not emerged during the one-day debates and they have concluded that such tales are much exaggerated by the press and television.

Yet there is widespread concern among ordinary parents. In Peterborough, for example, Mr Roy Tate, a systems analyst, referred to a petition that had been drawn up by parents complaining that at one school children aged 11 and 12 were being encouraged to come and go as they pleased.

Nine other parents at Deacons School, a small former grammar school in north Peterborough, agreed that it was time the local education authority sorted out some of the city's head teachers.

Deacons was good, they said, but some schools, to which their other children went, were rotten.

They believed that standards in schools had declined, because children were being

given a broader curriculum than in their day and were learning more subjects superficially. They wanted the Government to insist that English, mathematics, physical education and sport and religious education should be compulsory until the age of 15 or 16. Examinations should be on a pass or fail basis. There should be no mixed-ability classes, and the leaving age should be 15.

Parents at Arthur Mellows Village College, a school seven miles outside Peterborough, which has 1,200 pupils and serves a community of 15,000 spread over 320 square miles, also thought that the leaving age should be lowered. Some suggested that it should be 14, with industry providing training centres for children between 14 and 16.

But those parents did not believe that discipline was as bad as so many made out. In the past schools had gone overboard for modern methods, and that had led to "sloppy teaching". But discipline had now got that out of its system.

It was up to parents, they said, to get together and back the teachers. Half of the blame for indiscipline rested with parents who were not firm enough at home.

Mr Brian Spencer, a painter and decorator, thought the schools were doing a good job, but they gave too much sex education.

A sales representative agreed that sex education had gone far too far, judging by the sentiments expressed in his 14-year-old daughter's diary. But when it came to homework and discipline at home, he agreed that he was easy-going too. "All her friends are given a free rein. I think I am old-fashioned enough as it is," he said.

Men sold school's food in a cut-price shop

The catering manager of Bedford School and his assistant sold food from the school and sold it at bargain prices in a corner grocery store, they opened up, it was stated at Bedford Crown Court yesterday. In 10 months they swindled the school out of groceries and other goods valued at more than £15,000, Mr Justice Thornton, for the prosecution said.

The catering manager, Leslie Azoulay, aged 30, of Shakespear Road, Bedford, was jailed for two years. He admitted seven offences of theft of food and other property from the school and one count of obtaining money by deception.

His assistant, Graham Blackwell, aged 28, was given a 15 months' prison sentence, suspended for two years on licence, and fined £200. He admitted six offences of theft and one of obtaining money by deception.

Mr Thornton said the school was unwittingly subsidizing the shop to the extent of more than £100 a week. The two defendants opened the shop with £200 worth of groceries belonging to the school and continued stocking it in the same way.

They were also responsible for running the school tuck shop, and whenever the takings were high they would pocket most of the profits.

Hope for a late settlement of TV dispute

By Kenneth Gossling

The European Broadcasting Union, meeting in Geneva yesterday, offered an opportunity for a late settlement of the dispute that threatens to keep the Eurovision song contest off the television screen.

It decided to defer a final decision for a week in the hope that the dispute involving BBC outside broadcast cameras, might be settled. Possible alternative arrangements were discussed but no firm conclusions were reached.

If the dispute is settled by next Thursday the BBC is prepared to make every effort to stage the contest at Wembley. But unless the corporation offers to regrade the cameras there is little chance that their union, the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs, will allow the programme to go ahead.

A representative said the dispute had been going on for three years; with new technology the job-description had changed dramatically and the men maintained that they were underpaid.

With no settlement in sight, the televising of tomorrow's university boatrace is in doubt.

Firemen's dispute

Firemen in West Sussex will be answering emergency calls only from today in protest against remarks by Mr Frank Keen, chairman of the county council's fire committee, that some union members sought to arouse alarm over proposed budget cuts. The union branch is seeking an apology.

Two-stage rise in rates for domestic electricity

By Our Energy Correspondent

A two-stage increase in home electricity prices has been approved by the Price Commission. Bills sent after April 1 will be up by 2 per cent through the fuel-cost adjustment clauses and after July 1 by an average of 5 per cent.

About 500,000 customers on night rates and 1,250,000 on tariffs combining cheap night rates with a boost for their equipment during the day will benefit from a 4 to 5 per cent cut in the cost of off-peak electricity.

The 12 area boards in England and Wales are reducing their off-peak rates because of changes in the Central Electricity Generating Board's bulk supply tariff designed to stimulate demand for power during the early hours.

General industrial tariffs, excluding fuel-cost adjustment, will rise by an average of 3.7 per cent. New general domestic increases, which vary from region to region, cover the industry's increased costs other than power station fuel.

The 2 per cent rise will compensate for increases in the cost of coal and oil to power stations. Further quarterly increases, totalling 8 per cent for the year, are certain because the National Coal Board is increasing its prices, from April 1.

Average domestic increases are: South Western (6 per cent); London (6.2 per cent); South Eastern (3.4 per cent); Midlands (5 per cent); North Western (5 per cent); Yorkshire (6 per cent); North Eastern (5.5 per cent); Merseyside (3.5 per cent); East Midlands (4.2 per cent); Southern (6.8 per cent); South Wales (3 per cent); Eastern Electricity tariffs will be fixed today.

Britain may be training 1,000 too many doctors

By John Roper

Britain may be training more than a thousand doctors a year more than the country needs, according to the *British Medical Journal* says today.

France, Germany and Denmark have several hundred unemployed doctors. They are puzzled by Britain's commitment to an expansionist policy. British doctors are hoping to seek work in Europe will find strong competition. Community directives allow free movement but do not require a French hospital to employ a British doctor in preference to a French doctor.

Nor will students now waiting to enter Britain's medical schools be able to look for jobs much outside Europe, other than in Arab countries.

Entry to the United States is more difficult than previously and Canada, Australia and New Zealand no longer hold the door wide open to British medical graduates. Entry to Britain has been tightened. Of 1,420 candidates for the Temporary Registration Assessment Board test last year 506 passed, which raises the question whether something is not wrong with a system that allows so many foreign doctors to come to Britain with unrealistic expectations.

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£500,000 asked for island with a heronry

By Gerald Ely

Osea Island, in the Blackwater estuary, off the Essex coast, has been put on the market privately by Dr Michael Cole and his brother, Mr David Cole, joint chairman of the Cambridge Instrument Company, of Cambridge. A price of about £500,000 is being asked, through Knight, Frank and Rutley.

The island covers about 325 acres. It is mainly agricultural, but is also known for the variety of its wildlife, a feature of which is a heronry.

Training jet in airport crash

A British Airways 707 jet crashed and caught fire when about to take off on a training flight from Prestwick airport, Strathclyde, yesterday. One of the crew was slightly injured, and the aircraft was extensively damaged.

The Government has rejected on economic grounds a plan for an increase in the £200 death grant. The decision was made known by Mr Orme, Minister for Social Security, in a letter to Mr George Foulkes, director of Age Concern Scotland.

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مكتبة النخيل

HOME NEWS

Bad housing a key to delinquency, Shelter report says

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The health and education of children are at risk because they live in bad housing, according to a Shelter report. Living in overcrowded conditions doubles their chances of becoming delinquent, the report says.

The report is based on a special analysis of information from the national child development study, begun in 1958 by the National Children's Bureau.

The study, which monitors the social and educational progress of 16,000 children born in single week throughout Britain, has already pointed to the links between bad housing and poor development of children the time they were seven.

Today's Shelter report is based on the results obtained when the children were aged 11 and, for the first time, points to the added risk of delinquency when children are poorly housed.

The report says lack of a bath, inside lavatory and hot water retards reading ability by an average of 10 months and arithmetic ability by nine months. The lack of the same basic amenities increases slightly the risk of a child's suffering ill health.

Shelter points out that 800,000 families live in houses officially unfit for human habitation, and a million more live in houses that lack hot water, a bath or an inside lavatory.

Wider use of home-nursing scheme suggested

By Our Medical Correspondent

Mothers who are anxious about letting their children be admitted to hospital are being offered an alternative on Tyne-side. Dr R. H. Jackson, paediatric consultant at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead, has pioneered a scheme for home nursing in suitable cases and the results reported in the *British Medical Journal*, suggest that the method could be used more widely.

The idea of home nursing for small children was first planned as a pilot study when child-care services were re-organized with the opening of a new hospital in Gateshead in 1974. Eighteen family doctors from six practices agreed to take part, and four nurses were selected for special training.

In the first year the children nursed at home included 22 with acute illnesses who would otherwise be sent to hospital and 39 sent home from hospital early after treatment for infections or injuries.

Home-care lasted on average 10 days, with a nurse visiting daily for about 20 minutes, though more seriously ill children were seen more often.

Eight of the children got worse at home and were then admitted to hospital. The Gateshead doctors found that most of the mothers were satisfied with the scheme and many said they were pleased not to have been separated from their children. There were seven, however, who found the strain of coping with a sick child difficult, often because of the demands of their other children.

Even so, the overall assessment has been that children can safely be nursed at home if their illnesses are unlikely to last more than a few days and provided that special facilities of socially isolated families.

Source: *British Medical Journal*, March 19, page 762.

Pensioners challenge Government next week

By Pat Healy

A case in which three pensioners are challenging the way the Government increased social security benefits last year is due to be heard in the Chancery Division of the High Court on Wednesday. The hearing will take place six days before the Budget, when it is expected that announcements about the next increase will be made.

The case might affect pensioners and other benefits paid to about 12 million people, and the Government is taking it seriously enough to have the Solicitor General and Treasury counsel to present its case.

The three pensioners will be in court to hear legal arguments on the interpretation of sections 124 and 125 of the Social Security Act 1975. The sections place a duty on the Government to review annually pensions and other benefits and increase them in line with inflation. The measure to be taken for the increase of pensions and other long-term benefits is the movement in earnings or prices, whichever is higher.

The pensioners' case, which is being sponsored by the Child Poverty Action Group, is that the Government failed to meet its obligations under the Act last year because it changed its method of measuring inflation. Instead of counting past inflation since the previous general increase was announced, the Government forecast ahead.

The new method led to increases in benefits last November of a quarter less than the normal method would have produced, or £1 a week less for the single pensioner.

Mrs Barbara Castle, then Secretary of State for Social Services, said at the time that the increase would protect pensioners against inflation and that to have given them a greater rise would have meant asking for higher national insurance contributions whose pay was being restrained.

The Act, whose provisions on overpayments took effect for the first time last year, says the Secretary of State shall estimate inflation "in such manner as he thinks fit".

The Government was intending to forecast ahead again for the increases this year, which must be implemented by November 22. With the hearing set so close to Budget day, it may await the outcome.

Minister's decree

Mr. Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, was granted a decree nisi, by consent, at Exeter yesterday. They have lived apart for two years.

The future of broadcasting 2: The commercial system's recommendations

Independent TV companies reapply for second channel

By Kenneth Gooling

The 15 independent television companies, through their association, produced a 160-page volume of evidence, as much an explanation of how the commercial system operates as it was a blueprint for the future.

Among 36 conclusions and recommendations it repeated the companies' application for a second commercial channel as made in 1973 to the Minister of Posts at the time. But it also had one or two critical things to say about the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

Companies most concerned with current affairs believed, for example, that it would be better for television if commercial programmes were transmitted first and debated later, unless they were in clear breach of some regulation.

It wanted the companies to have more direct access to the IBA, whose composition, it said, should include a better representation of the viewing public.

"The aim of the IBA", it said, "should be to ensure that the commercial system is not allowed to become involved in detail."

As for the independent companies, the BBC, it called for greater alteration of programming to avoid wasteful duplication of facilities; recommended a joint audience-measurement service and sought a joint examination of the future of school broadcasting, with particular reference to the potential impact of the video-cassette.

What gave the ITV system its strength was its regional structure and its diversity. No reforms that would impair those features were justifiable, and, with due safeguards against inadequate performance, it called for "rolling" contracts on the lines of independent radio contracts.

The evidence also examined the component parts of independent television, with its three tiers of companies; those serving the main centres of population, ATV in Birmingham; Granada, Manchester; London Weekend Television in London; and Yorkshire in Leeds; then the five large regional: Anglia in Norwich; HTV in Cardiff and Bristol; Scottish in Glasgow; Southern in Southampton; Tyne-Tees in Newcastle; and the five smaller companies: Border, Carlisle; Channel, Jersey; Grampian, Aberdeen; Ulster, Belfast; and Westward, Plymouth.

The system, it admitted, creaked from time to time under the stress of interdependence; but up and down the country many enterprises in arts and sciences flourished today because of assistance and encouragement from the regional television company. Geography and economics had at times dictated associations, alliances or the redrawing of frontiers; but without the three-tier system there would be a diminution of diversity and independence.

On ITV's record to date there is no cause to shed a tear," the submission said.

What of the scores and scores of other submissions, covering more aspects of the country's life than probably any other inquiry has previously tapped? Not all were published by their authors; the Annan committee made none of the evidence public.

They ranged from the Confederation of British Industry to the Communist Party, from

Aims for Freedom and Enterprise to the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs. The National Viewers' and Listeners' Association predicted enough wanted greater control over "offensive" programmes, and the Roman Catholic Church favoured the status quo so far as BBC and independent television were concerned as institutions.

Annan, it said, should defend and reinforce their integrity and independence.

The Standing Conference on Broadcasting produced an important piece of evidence for the committee which proposed the creation of three new bodies: a central broadcasting commission, an independent research organization and a ministry of communications. It wanted a redefinition of the purposes of broadcasting, a constant review and more public discussion.

Business and industry had a good deal to say, the CBI pointing to industrialists' suspicion of the media and suggesting that all radio, including the BBC, should be financed by advertising. The TUC disliked the way strikes and other industrial

news were presented and thought the fourth channel should be devoted to cultural and educational interests, not controlled by ITV.

Improving community relations occupied the Runnymede Trust ("myths and imperial stereotypes being perpetuated") and the Community Relations Commission, while the Central Council for Physical Recreation disliked the concentration on sensationalism in sport (action replays of send-offs in football, for example) and wanted programme makers to take a more positive line.

Then there were the pupils of an Ormskirk school who went carefully through a selection of programmes on both BBC and ITV twice and identified all the incidents of blasphemy and swearing. Far too much, they concluded.

Annan threw the net wide, trawling for every possible expression of opinion. Broadcasting, its chairman said, was not in the dock but in the witness box.

The trial is completed: the judgment is about to be delivered.

Concluded

Judge urges common sense over woman squatter

From Our Correspondent

Bradford

Judge Suddards called at Bradford County Court yesterday for common sense in dealing with a woman squatter who looks around and in his opinion it is quite habitable for the short term," she said. "There is nothing drastically wrong but it is a little damp. I am content to live there and pay rent."

Mr. Anthony Kilmer, for the council, said if a tenancy was granted the council would have obligations, but spending money on the house would not be justified.

The judge told Miss Walker: "I have no discretion in this case and unless the council change their heart I shall have to make the order in two weeks' time. If you have somewhere to go I advise you to go."

The judge said: "It wants properly investigating by someone with common sense and not too much following the book."

Miss Walker, who runs a health food shop in Leeds Road, Bradford, told the court that she moved into the house

when she was homeless. She had been paying rates and gas and electricity bills but no rent.

"I have had an architect to look around and in his opinion it is quite habitable for the short term," she said. "There is nothing drastically wrong but it is a little damp. I am content to live there and pay rent."

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Improvements at Heathrow by summer

Traffic difficulties at Heathrow airport since 1974 have been like a "man-made earthquake the tremors of which are being felt three years after," Mr. Kenneth Walter, the airport's director, said yesterday.

Speaking about congestion in the central area caused by extensive building programmes, he said: "Never before in the history of Heathrow has there been such a concentration of

work in such a small area. The airport has never before seen anything like it."

But by the summer there should be better conditions for both passengers and road users compared with last year, when big traffic jams brought chaos to the surrounding roads and the airport to a standstill. On one summer day last year 38,000 vehicles poured into the airport.

By midsummer road works

on a new pedestrian subway linking all three terminals will be finished with the latest stage of extensive modification to terminal two.

He said, however, that the volume of passengers was increasing every year and that extra complications would arise this year because the holiday rush will coincide with the final stages of the building programme.

By midsummer road works

'Citizens should be able to sue for maladministration'

By Our Legal Correspondent

Individuals should have the right to sue government departments and other decision-making authorities for maladministration, the Association of Liberal Lawyers says in evidence to the Royal Commission on Legal Services.

The legal profession does not provide the help and advice people need when they are involved in disputes with various kinds of authority, the association says. It calls for legal aid to be extended to all proceedings before tribunals.

The association, which is "profoundly dissatisfied with the provision of legal services", makes a number of recommendations aimed at making the law available to all sections of society.

It proposes the setting up of a legal services commission to take over the administration of legal aid and to supervise and

expand the network of neighbourhood law centres in deprived areas. Legal aid limits should be raised substantially.

Other reforms proposed include: an end to solicitors' conveyancing monopoly, a more informal court procedure (including the abolition of robes for judges) and an end to the adversary system of trial in family disputes.

The Liberal lawyers call for an independent prosecution system, similar to that in Scotland, with criminal prosecutions taken out of the hands of the police. A similar proposal is made by the Prosecuting Solicitors Society of England and Wales.

The society wants each police authority to have a prosecuting solicitor (only 29 of 41 have them at present), who would be independent both of the police and of the local authority for the area.

£4,750 charge

Christopher Baldwin, aged 31, a commodity broker, of Lowndes Square, Belgravia, London, was remanded on bail of £7,000 until May 10 at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with obtaining by deception a pair of Holland and Holland shotguns worth £4,750 from Mr John Wilkes in Beak Street, Soho.

Isaac Newton

Frances Yates discusses the alchemist behind the mathematician in Isaac Newton, Michael Binyon talks to Paul Ehrlich, and the achievement of John Dewey is assessed, all in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today.

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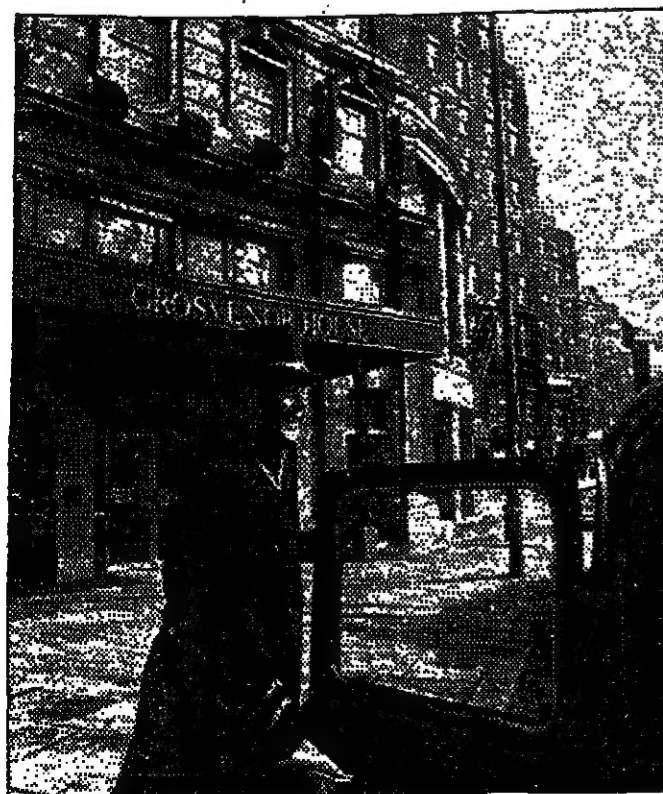
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Cumberland Hotel, London.

One of London's best-known hotels and a recent addition to the THF group, the Cumberland is marvellously sited overlooking Marble Arch and Hyde Park. It has no less than five restaurants to choose from. L'Épée d'Or specialises in brochettes cooked on swords, and the Carvery offers you tasty roasts to select for carving yourself. To book a table at L'Épée d'Or, ring 01-262 1234.



The Shakespeare Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon.

This early sixteenth century coaching inn is close to Shakespeare's last home, and has a delightful Shakespearean theme throughout. Rooms are named after famous plays and characters. The 'As You Like It' restaurant, in the original Tudor part of the hotel, serves pre-theatre dinners from 6.15 pm. To book a table, ring 0789 3631/3.

The sign of a great welcome



Hotels

TRUST HOUSES FORTE

UK 1

PARLIAMENT, March 17, 1977

PM wonders why Mrs Thatcher wants to vote against cuts

House of Commons

If the gas price increases did not go ahead, the Government would have to find £100m cuts somewhere else, the Prime Minister said during a question time.

The exchanges began when Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby, Lab) asked: When the Prime Minister discusses economic policy with the TUC again, he should ensure they are not taken in by the posturing of the Opposition on matters such as increased food prices, when their policies would lead to even higher prices than at present, on gas prices, where their entreaties for public expenditure cuts ignore the policies of the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr Healey); and on taxation where the workers would be unemployed, if it had not been for the reversal of policy by the Secretary of State for Industry (Mr Varley).

Mr Callaghan (Cardiff, South-East, Lab)—He is right. The policies of the Opposition would lead to higher cost of living increases in this country.

Mr Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition (Barnet, Flitchley, C)—As he has doubtless discovered, the TUC, he should tell the House why he is the first Prime Minister in the postwar period who has to advise to put the White Paper proposals on public expenditure directly to the House on a direct motion for a direct vote. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Callaghan—I do not see what she is complaining about. (Conservative interruptions.) She has been pressing us for months to cut the expenditure; we have now cut it. (Conservative shouts of "Answer.")

She repeated a motion, if it came to one, I would expect to find Mrs

Thatcher and every member of the Tory Party on my side. The truth is that if Mr Callaghan puts down a motion to approve the White Paper he would lose it, his whole economic policy, and the Government with it. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Callaghan—If Mrs Thatcher means that, I must ask her whether she is not being hypocritical in the calls she has made for us to reduce public expenditure, because that is what this White Paper is about.

Perhaps she should reflect on the question as to why, when she has asked us to cut public expenditure, and we have cut it, she would wish to vote against these cuts.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberals (Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, L)—How does he expect to increase the authority of the Price Commission in keeping down prices in the private sector, if the Government override decisions on prices in the public sector?

What did he mean on Tuesday when he said he would be bringing the matter before the House, since it is doubtful whether the House would approve it?

Mr Callaghan—On Tuesday, I was having an erudite discussion about the merits of the institutions of higher learning at Birmingham when I was rudely interrupted by the question about gas prices. I said it was not a matter of the House, but now I find it does not. (Laughter and interruptions.)

I apologise for this grave and grievous error, which I trust I need not repeat again.

As regards the general question, this is not a matter that I hope we shall have to return to. The increase in gas prices was part of the undertakings we gave to the IMF in relation to our borrowing requirements for this year. (Conservative interruptions.)

There is no need for Opposition to say "Ah"—this was explained to the House in December. They knew about it perfectly well, and it is contained in a document published today.

It would not be proper for me to go back on these cuts because, if we did, we would have to find £100m cuts somewhere else. We are not going to depart from the basic arithmetic of that agreement.

Mr Norman Atkinson (Haringey, Tottenham, Lab)—There is a society and appreciation expressed by some members of the TUC General Council that the Government and the National Enterprise Board are saying that they cannot fill the vacancies among directorships for which they have nominating rights because it is suggested there is no available managerial or executive talent. (Conservative laughter.)

He should try to encourage ministers to resist the story they are putting about the lack of knowledge of such talent, and no talent spotting methods by which they can fulfil these obligations. They should look at the whole question of Government appointments.

Mr Callaghan—It is difficult on occasions to find people of the requisite talent to fill particular positions that are necessary to be filled. (Renewed Conservative laughter and shouts of "Look behind you.")

I do not have to look behind me, I just have to look at the Opposition. (Labour laughter and cheers.) It is a real problem of British industry and it is one to which we must devote careful attention.

When I am looking for recruits, I shall not look more than a few miles from the door of the Opposition. (Labour laughter and cheers.)

Where the Government are convinced that the price rises have been listening to and talking about need to be avoided, I have told the NFU exactly what I think. It is a point about which the best way of decreasing our own production and penalising them to provide food which the householder cannot afford to buy.

Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C)—The NFU are concerned about the EEC proposals for milk. In this country we do not produce surplus milk, but how much of that was due to British membership and how much to other factors was a little difficult to say. Mr John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, stated:

Mr Silkin—I have that much in mind. It is true that whatever the surplus milk exists it does not exist in the United Kingdom. Our traditional method of drinking liquid milk and having it delivered to the door is something we must protect. It is for that reason that I am fighting hard to preserve the milk industry, but I am not fighting for the sake of practical socialism as it is possible to have. (Labour cheers.)

Mr John Silkin (Lewisham, Deptford, Lab)—I will be no secret that I have for some time thought that the cost of our food would increase once we were in the Common Market. That I believe to be the case.

The retail food index has risen by 108 per cent during our time of membership to December, 1976. It is not a small increase, and how much to other factors is a little difficult to say.

Mr William Molloy (Ealing, North, Lab)—The Commission proposal for exclusive use of dairy farms in making decisions on the price of milk is a very serious matter. The Commission will surely cause a massive price increase but more serious, it will probably result in a massive increase in unemployment in the dairy industry.

Mr Silkin—I am aware of the difficulties about this. If the proposals of the Commission merely mean that we have proper labelling on milk, I can understand it. But if we are to have a massive increase in the price of milk, which is a very serious matter, we must be able to do it in a way which does not cause unemployment in the dairy industry.

Mr Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Battersea, North, Lab)—At the close of last night's debate the Conservative front bench committed the Opposition to accepting the whole of the Commission's present price package which would lead to an increase of 15 per cent in food prices and would carry a balance of payments cost to £500m.

Mr Silkin—It was rather late at night but I was a little surprised to see Mr Scott-Hopkins (West Derbyshire, C)—There are advantages in the milk package and if we get one and a half million cows out of production in Europe it would be a great advantage.

Part of the reason for the rise in the cost of food is not the CAP but largely due to the inflationary policies of the present Government.

Mr Silkin—I do not agree with Mr Scott-Hopkins's view that the milk package is a good thing. It is a very serious matter, and it is not a matter of the House, but it is a matter of the Government.

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Protection for daily deliveries of milk

Mr John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said Britain's traditional method of carrying liquid milk and having it delivered daily to the doorstep was something which the Government must protect. For that reason he was fighting hard to preserve the milk marketing boards.

Mr Dennis Canavan (West Stirling, Lab) had asked when the minister expected to meet representatives of the National Farmers' Union and what subjects he expected to discuss with them.

Mr John Silkin (Lewisham, Deptford, Lab)—I will be in close touch with the NFU on matters of concern to the agricultural industry.

Mr Canavan—Will he discuss with farmers the Common Market farm price proposals which will mean an extra 70p a week on the food bill of the average family, on top of the 24 per cent increase? The Conservative Government must be making a mistake in taking us into the Common Market and it was an even bigger mistake for the Labour Government to recommend that we stayed in.

Will he extricate us from the stupidity of the common agricultural policy which has put us in an even worse position than we were in? (Conservative laughter and shouts of "Look behind you.")

Mr Silkin—Whatever I may have said in the past, we are in the Common Market, and the CAP is part of the Common Market. I have told the NFU exactly what I think. It is a point about which the best way of decreasing our own production and penalising them to provide food which the householder cannot afford to buy.

Where the Government are convinced that the price rises have been listening to and talking about need to be avoided, I have told the NFU exactly what I think. It is a point about which the best way of decreasing our own production and penalising them to provide food which the householder cannot afford to buy.

Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C)—The NFU are concerned about the EEC proposals for milk. In this country we do not produce surplus milk, but how much of that was due to British membership and how much to other factors was a little difficult to say. Mr John Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, stated:

Mr Silkin—I have that much in mind. It is true that whatever the surplus milk exists it does not exist in the United Kingdom. Our traditional method of drinking liquid milk and having it delivered to the door is something we must protect. It is for that reason that I am fighting hard to preserve the milk industry, but I am not fighting for the sake of practical socialism as it is possible to have. (Labour cheers.)

Mr John Silkin (Lewisham, Deptford, Lab)—I will be no secret that I have for some time thought that the cost of our food would increase once we were in the Common Market. That I believe to be the case.

The retail food index has risen by 108 per cent during our time of membership to December, 1976. It is not a small increase, and how much to other factors is a little difficult to say.

Mr William Molloy (Ealing, North, Lab)—The Commission proposal for exclusive use of dairy farms in making decisions on the price of milk is a very serious matter. The Commission will surely cause a massive price increase but more serious, it will probably result in a massive increase in unemployment in the dairy industry.

Mr Silkin—I am aware of the difficulties about this. If the proposals of the Commission merely mean that we have proper labelling on milk, I can understand it. But if we are to have a massive increase in the price of milk, which is a very serious matter, we must be able to do it in a way which does not cause unemployment in the dairy industry.

Mr Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Battersea, North, Lab)—At the close of last night's debate the Conservative front bench committed the Opposition to accepting the whole of the Commission's present price package which would lead to an increase of 15 per cent in food prices and would carry a balance of payments cost to £500m.

Mr Silkin—It was rather late at night but I was a little surprised to see Mr Scott-Hopkins (West Derbyshire, C)—There are advantages in the milk package and if we get one and a half million cows out of production in Europe it would be a great advantage.

Part of the reason for the rise in the cost of food is not the CAP but largely due to the inflationary policies of the present Government.

Mr Silkin—I do not agree with Mr Scott-Hopkins's view that the milk package is a good thing. It is a very serious matter, and it is not a matter of the House, but it is a matter of the Government.

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Immediate battle for confidence won: creating conditions for higher output and investment

Mr Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Heworth, Leeds, Lab), opening a debate on the White Paper on the Government's expenditure plans, said they were designed to achieve a better balance in the economy.

This was essential after a period of years when expenditure had grown faster than the economy, and in order, while consolidating improvements made in social security, to give top priority to industry. This inevitably had to mean a lower priority for other expenditure programmes.

As regards gas prices, there were serious underlying questions—how much nationalised industry investment or public borrowing should be financed by taxation, how much should be financed by the reduction of public expenditure.

These were the issues they had to face in looking at this problem.

The gas industry debt at the end of 1976 stood at about £2,500m. In 1974 and 1975 there were heavy losses, over £40m and £30m respectively, arising largely from policies of the Conservative Government which resulted in total energy subsidies to nationalised energy industries and the Post Office of £1,100m.

In real terms, gas prices fell by nearly 20 per cent between 1970 and 1976 compared with increases of over 20 per cent in electricity prices and 10 per cent in coal. This was another factor that had to be taken into consideration in deciding what their priorities should be, and where and how they raised a particular £100m.

Whenever they looked at the gas industry, they were convinced that the particular changes the Government had made were not only essential for economic reasons but they were also right for social reasons.

To continue to spend more than the industry could afford was a recipe for disaster that would eventually destroy the social fabric of our society.

Nevertheless, MPs knew many of the people they represented wanted substantial increases in expenditure in many of the public services. They were often supported by Conservative MPs, who demanded bigger and bigger cuts in public expenditure in general, but their priorities should be often to be found on the Conservative benches.

The same people who asked for higher expenditure were invariably those who also asked for higher taxes. They could not have it both ways.

At the moment they had to admit that the Government's choice would be for income tax cuts. He believed it was not necessary to take a populist view to accept that their constituents were

their incompetence during three years in office.

There are no more allis for the Chancellor (he said), wherever he may be.

The Government had not moved far enough in the right direction. Under the disciplines of the IMF and under the pressure of events they had taken decisions which enabled them to catch their breath. They had not restored the balance of the economy.

It was a mistake to borrow requirement—however large it might turn out to be—was still so large as to carry a risk of inflation returning. The Government had not done enough to bring us back to full employment. It was widely recognized that the unemployment problem could not be solved by reduction of demand

for three years of the Government's position was a total lack of confidence in the Government's public expenditure policies to the House. On one hand they were step-by-step cutting back on public expenditure and at the same time they were trying to do more than they were doing.

The policy that for three years the Chancellor and the Government had rejected Opposition advice to embark on expenditure cuts, and their failure to do so at an early stage was the cause of present grief and anguish.

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right and there ought to be a shift in the balance. He would like it to come from higher economic growth, but it would be foolish to assume that.

Regrettably, and looking ahead to public expenditure and the economy generally, there was bound to be some shift in the balance of the economy. This was because after what was, in income terms, inevitably a disappointing year not only for the United Kingdom but the world, though there were signs towards the end of the year that growth was picking up again, the pace of expansion after the first quarter was generally below the rate needed to increase employment.

In many industrial countries unemployment was higher at the end of 1976 than at the beginning of 1976. The sterling exchange rate and slowing down of world trade in 1976 checked the progress in reducing the large deficit in external payments.

The Government had to take action to ensure an improvement in the external account and to ensure that industry could get the funds needed on reasonable terms. That was the background against which the Chancellor announced on December 15 the stabilization programme of two years to bring the economy back to a balance of payments surplus.

The White Paper envisaged a further small decline in the next two years. For that most part, local authority current expenditure had not been reduced in their programmes announced last July and last December.

Even so, the plans for 1977-78 still involved some reduction in current spending in current price terms. The White Paper was about Government public expenditure plans in volume terms.

In 1977-78 we must widen the figures he said into firm control over public expenditure. Another White Paper setting out cash limits for Government spending in 1977-78.

Any further reduction in current spending would mean a further reduction in public expenditure in Britain under more effective control than for many years.

Although I believe that most fair-minded observers of what we have done will regard it as a very good job in getting control of public expenditure, for my part I do not believe that there is any room for complacency.

The next financial year, it will be further consolidated and we shall be building round the new control. The programme accepted in the White Paper for 1977-78 and 1978-79. They had not been successful for a variety of reasons for which

cuts had been made in a damage to the economy.

The ironic thing was that the Chancellor, in his 1975 Budget speech took credit for the fact that we had not imposed cuts till the following 12 months because he wanted to avoid this sort of thing and the need for a more radical approach to the problem, through 12 months in which there had been series of cuts after series of cuts.

The irony was that a party which had spoken so much about the need for long-term planning had turned out to be so incompetent at planning even their own spending programme. It was only one 12 months. That was the most important reason for criticising the pattern of these cuts and looking for a more radical approach to the problem.

They needed a rational alternative to these series of cuts because the Government remained committed to a series of long-term, large growing and misguided spending programmes. They would have to be rationalised and reduced.

The Government had pushed a lot of the capital spending programmes that were in existence back 12 months or 12 months by the end of the year, but there was a limit to the amount of times that could be done.

The House had to face the arguments that more jobs and prosperity would be created if money was allowed to flow not at the discretion of bureaucrats or civil servants but by reductions in taxes and reductions in the burdens of

the kind used in the fifties and sixties. The situation in the seventies was more complex.

The answer must be sought not in the pressure of the Government alone could produce something which would automatically come about as the North Sea oil flow eased the balance of payments difficulties. Partnership must be sought with management and labour and with other governments.

If we had not taken resolute action to restore confidence to ease the pressure on the financial markets (he said) the effects on unemployment would have been before the end of the year.

Some public spending was not always taken that the Government had not been able to control over local authority expenditure.

An annual growth rate of 10 per cent in the total of expenditure in 1974-75 had been cut to 2 per cent in current expenditure in 1976-77.

It would be grossly unfair (he said) to blame growth on profiteering local authorities. During the last two years the total local authority expenditure had declined slightly in absolute terms and as a proportion of public expenditure.

The White Paper envisaged a further small decline in the next two years. For that most part, local authority current expenditure had not been reduced in their programmes announced last July and last December.

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he did not blame local authorities. To have assumed that even higher cuts could have been achieved would have been unrealistic.

The response to the Government's measures from British friends abroad had generally been encouraging, both by their words and deeds. The response from the Opposition had been typically irresponsible, both in words and deeds.

He said the words of Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, Mr Patrick Jenkin, a former Chief Secretary to the Treasury, were very clear. Leading the Opposition in the Commons, the Opposition had been typical irresponsible, both in words and deeds.

Mr Geoffrey Howe had advocated looking much more vigorously and questionably at the scope for reducing housing subsidies. He was typically unforthcoming in not saying by how much or how quickly or what would be the consequences of the large cuts he had implied.

By contrast, just on the subject of the mortgage rate, in a recent speech by Mr Michael Heseltine, Chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, he had implied that millions of pounds. He promised a maximum mortgage rate and talked of an adjustment in the mortgage rate which would have cost housing societies, as if that would not cost anything. The cost of reducing the mortgage rate to, say, 8 per cent.

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Lloyds Bank

OVERSEAS

Bitter Rhodesia accuses the US Government of neglecting 'Soviet-inspired' attack on Zaire

From Michael Knipe
Salisbury, March 17

The Rhodesian Government today angrily attacked the United States over its attitudes to southern Africa, accusing President Carter of seeking to divert world attention from the "Russian-inspired invasion of Zaire" by adopting a critical approach to Rhodesia.

It was curious, said a Government spokesman, that the United States, "which accepted with equanimity a massive international humiliation in Vietnam and has abandoned Angola to the Soviets and Cubans, now presents an extravagant on southern Africa at the United Nations to vie with President Podgorny's visit to Africa, thereby diverting the eyes of the world from the ominous Russian-inspired invasion of Zaire, a trustworthy American ally, and also from the current African tour by Fidel Castro."

The tone of the statement reflects the increasing bitterness of the Rhodesian Government towards the new Carter Administration, particularly after the hard-line pronouncements of Mr Andrew Young,

the United States representative at the United Nations, and the reimposition by the United States of the embargo on chrome imports from Rhodesia.

The bitterness contrasts with the Rhodesian Government's attitude to the previous Administration which, under the guidance of Dr Kissinger, it believed to be relatively sympathetic to its own point of view.

In a second comment—on the Security Council's moves to force the closure of Rhodesia's remaining information offices in Washington, Paris and Sydney—the Government spokesman said this would be contrary to the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights concerning freedom of opinion and expression.

Meanwhile, there is speculation in Salisbury about a possible restoration of the political alliance between Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the rival African nationalist leader, the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole. Mr Sithole left the Muzorewa faction last September.

An official of the Muzorewa faction, Dr Gordon Chavunduka, has confirmed that negotiations are taking place regarding the possibility of a closer liaison. Both sides say such an alliance would gain them 80 per cent of African support within

the country. Bishop Muzorewa is expected to return to Rhodesia later this month after an absence of seven weeks.

Kinshasa, March 17.—The official Zaire press agency, Azapa, said today that invading forces from Angola had occupied three towns in southern Zaire and turned them into minefields. It claimed that 5,000 invaders were led by Cubans and were former guerrillas who served under Moise Tshombe in Katanga, now Zaire's southern province of Shaba.

Reliable sources here said that a second invasion force from Angola has penetrated the western Kasai province and, according to unconfirmed reports, captured the diamond mining town of Tshikapa. The force in Shaba had now pushed 120 miles inside the province and was poised to threaten Kolwezi, a mining town whose population includes 4,000 Belgians, most of them mining engineers.—Reuters and Agence France-Presse.

Luanda, March 17.—The Angolan Defence Ministry has warned Western powers against creating "a new Vietnam" in Zaire, while formally stating for the second time this week that Angola had nothing to do with the invasion of Shaba province.—Agence France-Presse.

68 killed in revenge for Jumblatt murder

Mukhtara, Lebanon, March 17.—At least 68 people have been killed in revenge for yesterday's assassination of Kamal Jumblatt, the leftist leader, well-informed sources said today.

Tens of thousands of people flocked to this mountain village for the funeral of Mr Jumblatt, one of Lebanon's best known politicians who was shot in his car by unknown attackers.

Sectarian killers seeking revenge struck quickly in the wake of his death, murdering people in the mountains and in Beirut before the Syrian troops of the Arab League peace force could intervene. Christian villagers said they knew of at least 58 Christians killed in the villages around Mukhtara, ancestral domain of the Jumblatt family.

Ten more people were killed in Beirut, informed sources said. Official delegations who came here for the funeral drove past scenes of destruction in the adjoining village of Bourme, where burned-out cars lined the streets. At least four bodies lay outside the village. There was no report of any of the killers being caught.

Mr Jumblatt was head of Lebanon's Druze community and acknowledged leader of left-wing factions in the recent civil war. He had many enemies within the political establishment and also among rival clans in the country's 200,000-strong Druze community, followers of an eleventh-century offshoot of Islam.—Reuters.

'Missing hours' riddle of Castro flight

Dar es Salaam, March 17.—Dr Fidel Castro, the Cuban Prime Minister, arrived here today for a five-day official visit. He was welcomed by President Nyerere, tribal dancers and thousands of Tanzanians.

Dr Castro's whereabouts were unexplained after he was reported to have left Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, on the previous leg of his African tour. Senior officials on his aircraft insisted they had left Addis Ababa today and denied speculation that they had gone to Mogadishu in Somalia to mediate in the guerrilla war between the two countries. But they were vague about exactly where Dr Castro had spent yesterday evening.

The Cuban leader, wearing his usual green military fatigues and a pistol, arrived in a Soviet aircraft. He embraced President Nyerere.

Several thousand people on the tarmac and on an observation platform cheered as the two leaders walked arm in arm across the airport.



Young soldiers of the Eritrean Liberation Front are old enough to use Kalashnikov rifles in their desert battle to secede from Ethiopia.

West Bank clash as Arabs mourn

From Eric Marsden
Nablus, March 17

Demonstrations by Arab schoolchildren, some ending in violence, were held in many towns in the occupied West Bank today. They were ostensibly a gesture of mourning for Mr Kamal Jumblatt, the murdered Druze leader who was the ally of the Palestinians in the Lebanese civil war, but developed into the familiar protests against occupation.

In Nablus a procession by students demanding vengeance against the killers dispersed peacefully but in El-Bireh, to the south, there were violent clashes.

Fifteen schoolgirls were taken to hospital, mostly suffering from the effects of tear gas. According to Israeli radio the gas was used when the protesters degenerated into a demonstration. Mr Suleiman Tawil, the mayor of El-Bireh, alleged, however, that security forces fired the tear gas into the classrooms.

A similar incident was reported three days ago from Jenin.

There was also a clash between students and security forces at Halhoul, near Hebron, where troops intercepted a funeral march and smashed a symbolic empty coffin.

In the Druze areas of northern Israel, schools were closed and some people stayed away from work. The Israeli Druze Council condemned the murder and demanded a demonstration against those responsible. Mr Kamal Mansour, a leader of the

community, said in a broadcast that Mr Jumblatt had been wrongly represented in Israel as an enemy, though he had recognized the Jewish state and was keenly interested in the welfare of its Druze community.

Meanwhile protests are continuing in Jerusalem and the West Bank about the treatment of Arab prisoners in Israeli jails. The prisoners authority claims that the second hunger strike by prisoners at Ashkelon south of Tel Aviv has ended with the transfer to other jails of most of the leaders but Arab sources say the remaining prisoners are still refusing solid food.

In the past two days there have been brief sympathy strikes by prisoners at Ramle, Israel's biggest jail, and Ramat Hashikma. The Greek Catholic Archbishop of Jerusalem, Mr Hilarion Capucci, who is serving a sentence in Ramat for aiding a terrorist organization, went on hunger strike last week, in solidarity with the Ashkelon prisoners.

A petition by mothers and sisters of the prisoners was handed to the Jerusalem headquarters of the International Red Cross yesterday. They were supported by a joint Arab and Jewish delegation of the Israeli Democratic Women's Movement, a left-wing group which claims widespread support in Galilee.

Abraham Shaker, the mayor of Nablus, told me today that while the Cairo meeting of the

Palestine National Council had aroused excitement among West Bank Arabs, it was not the main cause of the renewed tension. Continued harassment of Arabs by the security forces, was responsible.

In spite of gloomy reports of resistance by Cairo delegates to any change in the Palestinian charter, Mr Shaker said he expected the meeting would result in a resolution to accept an invitation to the Geneva conference without a prior commitment to recognize Israel. Even if it did not, West Bank residents would continue to support the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Anger at President Carter's proposal to give Israel "defensible borders" has not waned among Arabs, who think he gave undue preference to Israeli demands over Palestinian rights. In turn, Israelis are expressing alarm at Mr Carter's comment today that the Palestinians must have their own homeland. Israel contends that the Palestinians belong with Jordan.

Mr Rabin, the Prime Minister, who returned last week from talks with the President, said today he was worried by the text he had seen of Mr Carter's remarks. Mr Menachem Begin, the Likud Opposition leader, called for an information campaign to explain to the Americans that a Palestinian state would be a threat to Israel's existence.

Palestinian welcome for Carter policy

From Robert Fisk,
Cairo, March 17

Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said today that President Carter had touched on the core of the Middle East problem when he spoke in the United States last night of "a homeland" for Palestinian refugees.

[President Carter told a meeting in Clinton, Massachusetts, that there had to be secure borders for Israel, but "there has to be a homeland provided for the Palestinian refugees who have suffered so many, many years". However, according to a Reuters report, presidential press secretary Mr Jody Powell, said today that the word homeland "has no particular significance". Mr Carter was merely reiterating that the Palestinians must have a place to call "home".]

The statement was generally welcomed by Palestinian leaders attending the Palestine National Council meeting here, although there were objections to the word "refugees".

Mr Abu Daoud, for instance, the most popularly believed to have planned the operation at the Munich Olympics in 1972 in which Israeli athletes were killed, said that President Carter "must understand that we as Palestinians, have a land and are a revolution, not just refugees".

In the council chamber, however, Mr Arafat referred to the President's speech as an important step, and there is no doubt that he and other delegates have been much relieved by the statement. To some of them, it makes up for President Carter's suggestion a week ago that Israel should be given extra-territorial defensive positions after a Middle East peace agreement.

Mr Arafat addressed the council for four hours this morning and he implied once again that the Palestinians would like an invitation to a Geneva peace conference, although he appears to have gone to some lengths to keep his options open.

According to Mr Mahmoud Labadi, the council spokesman, Mr Arafat said of such an invitation: "We do not say 'No' because we do not want to close the door, and we do not say 'Yes' because this reveals the price."

Mr Arafat also said he opposes the idea of a Palestinian government-in-exile, which could have facilitated the Palestinians' invitation to Geneva, but Mr Labadi said very deliberately that Mr Arafat's views could be overruled in the council. Apparently Mr Arafat wanted to make a harder face in public than he did in private and intended that his views should be overruled.

Mr Labadi disclosed the council's reservations about the Carter statement when he declared at a small press conference this afternoon that the American President "did not define clearly and frankly, what he meant by a homeland".

Mr Daoud said that he did not think Mr Carter's words represented a change in American policy. The President, he said, wanted to cover up his previous statement on the Middle East which had "provoked the Arab states".

S African court frees men facing death

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, March 17

The Appellate Division of the South African Supreme Court today freed two members of the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo) who had been sentenced to death.

The decision was made on the grounds that a police informer in the defence lawyers' office had leaked information about their case to the security police. Mr Justice Rumpff, the Chief Justice, described the police action as "an utterly gross irregularity".

Mr Aaron Mushimba and Mr Henry Shikongo were sentenced to death last May after being found guilty of taking part in "terroristic activities" in Namibia (South-West Africa). They were the first to be sentenced to death under South Africa's Terrorism Act.

Mr Mushimba was found guilty of buying a Land-Rover and handing it over to people whose aim was to overthrow the administration of the territory by force. Mr Shikongo was found guilty of transporting three men who are alleged to have assassinated the former Ovambo leader, Chief Filemon Elifas, in August, 1975.

Two female members of

Swapo who had been given prison sentences in the same case were also ordered today to be set free. However, police sources predicted that all four would be redetained on different charges as soon as they were released.

In his 33-page judgment, Mr Justice Rumpff said that Mrs Elsie Ellis, who worked as a receptionist and clerk for the lawyers acting for the four accused, was a police informer.

She had approached the secretary of one of the firm's partners and asked her for copies of confidential documents concerning the case. Mrs Ellis had then passed these on to Captain Nel, a security police officer.

It was further disclosed that one of the firm's partners, Mr Smit, also worked for the security police.

The judge ruled that the complete elimination of privilege between the accused and the defence lawyers was an extremely serious irregularity which undoubtedly affected the proceedings. The nature and extent of the breach of privilege meant that the appellants' protection before and during the trial had "totally disappeared through the actions of the security police".

Ugandan bishops meet President

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, March 17

The 10 remaining Anglican bishops in Uganda met President Amin in Kampala today, and, according to Uganda radio, were given an assurance that he is not against Christians and fully supports freedom of worship.

It was the first meeting between the bishops and President Amin since the death in Kampala a month ago of Dr Janani Luvum, Archbishop of Uganda. Since then four bishops have fled the country and one has been deported.

The remaining bishops, led by the Right Rev Silvano Wani, Bishop of Northern Uganda, were said by the radio to have thanked President Amin for his "humanitarian policy of freedom of worship" and told him they were shocked by the call by Kenyan bishops for an international police force to move against his regime.

Meanwhile seven Ugandans were reported to have been shot dead by Ugandan troops today while attempting to smuggle coffee in small boats across Lake Victoria to western Kenya.



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Envoy calls on Britain to curb Arab boycott

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

A stretch of "waste land" exists in Anglo-Israeli relations, Mr Gideon Rafael, the outgoing Israeli Ambassador, said in London yesterday. "It is the area infected by what is called the Arab boycott, which it would be more correct to name the Arab economic warfare", he said.

Mr Rafael, who leaves shortly after seven years at the Israeli Embassy, said that British-Israeli relations had made a healthy recovery after the low point at the end of 1973, and were now solid, comprehensive and comprehensive.

He said of the boycott that it was not only a refusal of the Arab states to trade with Israel but the extension of this policy into the economic life of countries completely uninvolved in the dispute.

"The introduction of Arab economic warfare into third countries and the imposition of

their self-made rules over war on others is not only a severe breach of neutrality, but affects the free flow of commerce and the treaty obligations of member states of the European Community."

The Foreign Office was continuing to authenticate boycott documents for British firms trading with the Arab world. The British Government, he said, had repeatedly stated its "ideological opposition" to the boycott, "but so far no effective steps have been taken to curb boycott practices and to encourage the commercial community to resist them."

Mr Rafael pointed out that countries such as the United States, Canada and Holland had refused to cooperate with the boycott. He hoped that upon further consideration Britain would wish to find ways and means to neutralise the existing gap between principle and practice.

He paid tribute to British support of Soviet Jewry.

British plane spotters are charged with spying

From Our Correspondent
Athens, March 17

Five young Britons who came to Greece on an aircraft spotting holiday were charged today under the espionage provisions of the Greek penal code. Their trial was postponed until tomorrow because there was no interpreter in court.

Kieron Pilbeam, Roy Sturges, Christopher Knott, Christopher Taylor and Timothy Blyth Spearman sat in the dock of the Athens court of misdemeanours briefly while the presiding judge argued with their Greek lawyer. Then the judge turned to the defendants and told them in English: "Tomorrow here at 12 o'clock."

The indictment said that the five had violated the law concerning the unauthorized sketching of fortified military positions. The maximum penalty is two years in prison.

It added that they had attempted to "sketch and observe" the layout of nine military airfields as well as to make notes on installations and on the number and type of military aircraft they saw.

However, they did not complete the commission of the offence because they realized that they were under surveillance by the security authorities, so that for reasons beyond their control the act was not completed.

The accusation is formulated so as to imply that the defendants were aware of the illegality of their action, but the charge is weakened by the statement that the offence was not completed.

If they receive sentences of less than a year, they may be allowed to substitute fines, in which case they would probably be released.

President's hearty welcome in Massachusetts shows strength of popular support

From Patrick Brogan
Clinton, Massachusetts,
March 17

President Carter is still making "campaign" speeches, and everyone loves it. He came to Clinton yesterday, to attend a Town Meeting set up specially for his benefit, and answered questions from the residents on a variety of subjects without once being driven to novelty.

This is only to be expected. He gives two press conferences a month, attends public meetings and answers people on the telephone; the purpose of all this is not to make news but to convey to people the idea that he is in control, that he is keeping his campaign promises and that they were right to vote him into office.

It seems to be working, and it seems that Mr Carter is building up for himself a degree of support independent of Congress and the other centres of power in the country.

Clinton gathered to meet him in the evening. The lucky ones, about 850, had won tickets to the meeting in a lottery last week. The women were green, in honour of St Patrick, and the President had a green carnation in his buttonhole in the same cause.

The audience was one of the most enthusiastic the President has met outside Plain Georgia. They cheered him with wild enthusiasm when his entrance was announced, even though they were all facing the wrong way, towards the back of the hall, expecting him to enter there. When he appeared on the platform at the front, waving at 800 backs, they laughed at the mistake and cheered the louder.

He was asked 13 questions in all, most of which were not the sort of thing he is asked at press conferences. The man who won the most applause asked whether Clinton could be linked with the nearest motorway.

The President defended his policies on human rights (and said that he would speak out on human rights in Northern Ireland, without saying why), and was asked two questions by schoolgirls, one of whom wanted to know whether it was worth working to get into college.

He was asked about controlling spills from oil tankers, about conscription, abortion, the Middle East, the problems of small businessmen and whether the Federal Government would help to finance the development of central Clinton.

The story, though, is not what Mr Carter said last night: he has said it all hundreds of times before—apart from the remarks on downtown Clinton—but what is significant was the way he was received. Some of his questioners, and the city fathers who introduced him, were effectively complimentary about his honesty, his powers of leadership, his moral qualities and his sincerity of purpose.

Indeed, Mr Carter does seem to be winning popularity wherever he goes and whatever he does these days. The only exception is Congress, where he continues to find difficulties, and this partly explains his need for popularity.

A number of congressmen were at the Clinton meeting, including Senator Edward Kennedy, who was loudly cheered when Mr Carter mentioned him.

It is a coincidence that Mr Carter's first political trip out of Washington since taking office should bring him to Massachusetts and then to West Virginia. The former is the home state of Mr "Tip" O'Neill, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the latter the state of Senator Robert Byrd, Democratic leader in the Senate.

The President wants to work with them two men, and he serves to remind them that it is in their interest to work with him. He is doing quite well in that respect.

مكتبة الأصيل

OVERSEAS

Broken promises charge levelled

Opposition by Mrs Gandhi

before India's second day at polls

From Richard Wigg
Delhi, March 17

While the country took a rest on voting, Mrs Gandhi, the Prime Minister, hit out hard against Opposition leaders today "trying to create indiscipline, chaos and anarchy" during the election campaign.

She accused them of breaking promises given to the Government when the emergency had to be relaxed. They had tried to make electoral capital of family planning and the ruralisation programme.

Speaking at Misirki, in Uttar Pradesh, the Prime Minister did not spare the press, according to Samachar, the Indian news agency. Lumping it with the Opposition, she accused it of publishing all sorts of rumours and other news which is not reliable.

Assurances had been given by the Opposition and the press to publish anything "detrimental to the national interest," she said. Her words could be a veiled warning to Opposition leaders.

After a record turnout in several constituencies of northern India and in urban areas generally yesterday, voting resumes tomorrow. Under India's voting system, with polling spread over four days, both Government and Opposition voting machines can take a "second bite at the cherry".

Counting will not begin until Sunday, but the national party managers can evidently form less both from yesterday's

turnout figures and from reports from their workers outside the polling booths.

Roughly 40 per cent of the 319 million electorate will be eligible to vote tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday, according to the areas. The staggering is for administrative reasons—in the case of the two heavily populated northern states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar it helps to enable sufficient police to be concentrated around the 85 constituencies as polling takes place.

The prevailing impression from the first day is that the Opposition has made gains in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, but that the Congress Party is holding its ground in several southern states.

Mr L. K. Advani, general secretary of the Janata Party, the Opposition alliance, today speculated on a "bandwagon" effect which would benefit the Opposition. "We are telling our workers they must go all out to get a maximum of votes to the polls now for we believe the higher the voting the more it favours us."

The Opposition's goal must be to obtain around 375 seats of the 542 in Parliament for the Janata alliance, which groups the breakaway Congress for Democracy, certain state parties and the Marxist Communists, in order to have a two-thirds majority to repeal the amendments to the constitution passed last November.

Luxurious homes, food and drink at wedding parties and funeral wreaths are barred by law

S Korea curbs lavish display

From Peter Hazelhurst
Seoul, March 17

As South Korea enters a new period of prosperity under an unbridled system of capitalism, its austere leader is waging a new campaign, but this time not against his political opponents but against a new affluence of society whose ostentatious style of life threatens to emphasize the gap between the rich and the poor.

Although President Park Chung Hee is a staunch champion of capitalism, his methods of discouraging an over display of wealth are unique and, ironically, as one businessman puts it, bordering on an extreme form of socialism.

He has just prohibited the rich from building new large and luxurious houses. Those who live in such houses are under pressure to move into more modest dwellings.

Regulations against extravagant spending on family ceremonies, big receptions, weddings and funerals, have been in force for several years but the law has hardly been implemented.

However, new restrictions on the rich were ordered earlier this year. President Park said then that an ostentatious style of life would provoke resentment among the poor and disrupt the Government's efforts in promoting a sense of national unity.

The son of a peasant, President Park was schooled under the austere discipline of the former Japanese Imperial

Army. He told the nation: "It is not good to squander money, even though one has plenty of money and earned it honestly. We must discard the notion that one should be free from censure, even if one squanders one's own money away. We should bear in mind that there are still many poor and disadvantaged people in our neighbourhoods. Ostentatious expenditure is tantamount to hurting all-out national unity."

It is understood that President Park, who maintains a frugal style of life in his private official residence, decided to act against extravagance after touring Seoul's wealthy suburb of Dongbong. Koreans claim that the President was shocked when he learnt that one of his close associates had built an escalator in his private residence.

Expenditure on wedding and funeral ceremonies is strictly controlled by law. The regulations prohibit offering food and drink to guests at wedding halls. Funeral parlours are prohibited from displaying potted plants and wreaths. A traditional Asian custom of offering return gifts to wedding guests has been banned.

Under recent measures the maximum size of new houses, including garden space, will be limited to 1,000 square yards.

Owners of luxury houses are being urged to move into more modest ones and let their properties to foreigners and embassies.

A senior government official explained: "There is no law to force them out of their homes. But there are other pressures—businessmen who defy the orders could find that government licences or loans might be withdrawn. There is also the threat of rigid tax inspections."

Owners of new cars—another luxury item in South Korea—have to purchase bonds to finance housing development in poor areas.

Examples of what officials define as an extravagant life style are heated swimming pools, imported furniture, escalators in private homes and excessive light fittings.

Mr Byong Hoon Chun, the director general of the Ministry of Social Affairs, said that his department intended to tighten up regulations against expensive weddings, funerals and receptions.

"We will send teams of inspectors out to observe ceremonies this year. We have also banned the rich from constructing large and extravagant tombstones. At present punishment ranges from a fine of £400 or a maximum of one year's imprisonment."

He added that the measures might astound a Western mind but the regulations were vital to promoting social harmony in South Korea. "Under our old traditions the poor would use all their savings and borrow vast sums of money to finance lavish wedding or funeral ceremonies. They had to if they did not want to lose face."

Prague appeal for help to fellow Communists

Prague, March 17.—Eleven members of the Czechoslovak Communist Party's Central Committee of 1969 have written an appeal to other European Communists condemning their own country's campaign against the organizers of the Charter 77 human rights manifesto.

In a letter made available to Western correspondents here, the 11 said that the repression of the Charter signatories contradicted "the spirit and the explicitly formulated conclusions" of last June's meeting of European Communist leaders in East Berlin. That summit had recommended ratification of, and strict adherence to, the international declarations on human rights drafted by the United Nations.

The appeal condemned what it called the police repression, press campaign and other actions taken against the signatories of the Charter which called on the Czechoslovak Government to implement in full the United Nations declarations it had ratified last year.

Communist parties were asked to use "all practical measures which you can muster to help the Czechoslovak Communist Party to proceed in harmony with the political spirit of the conclusions of the (East Berlin) conference."

The signatories of the letter were all ousted from the central committee in 1969 after the short-lived liberal era of Mr Alexander Dubcek. They included Mr Jiri Hajek, Foreign Minister at the time, four party secretaries, Mr Zdenek Mlynar, Mr Vaclav Slavik, Mr Bohumil Simon and Mr Josef Spacek, and a former member of the party's ruling presidium, Mr Frantisek Krigel.

Today, the Communist Party newspaper Rude Pravo published its first report on the death last Sunday of Professor Jan Patocka, a principal spokesman for the Charter movement. It said the professor's associates had put him in the front line of the Charter campaign although they knew from the Western press that he was "ill, old and exhausted".

Despite knowing that last December he had suffered a serious cardiac attack, young and healthy organizers of the Charter had "egged him on in this fight against the people," the paper said. Some of his friends had even cynically stated that "if he would die it would help us".

The Western press and television had used his death to step up "their anti-Czechoslovak campaign,"—Reuters.

Journalists oppose Chile censorship

Santiago, March 17.—A new military order requiring official clearance for all new publications is a limitation on constitutional rights, the National Press Association said today.

The order was issued last Friday by the military emergency zone commander for Santiago. The capital was declared an emergency zone when the armed forces overthrew the late President Allende in September, 1973.

Prior authorization by military authorities is now required for the founding, editing, publication, circulation, distribution and marketing of any new newspaper, magazine, periodical or other printed matter. Prior government consent is also required to import and market foreign books, newspapers and magazines.—AP.

China executes 29 in clampdown

Peking, March 17.—Twenty-nine people are reported to have been executed in Shanghai and Canton as China's law-and-order campaign gathers momentum.

The Shanghai Supreme Court sentenced 26 "active counter-revolutionary" criminals to death, and travellers said three Chinese had been executed for espionage in Canton. Executions have also been reported in other cities as the authorities punished last year's political upheavals and widespread provincial unrest.

An official notice in a Shanghai street listed 53 convicted criminals, according to sources who read the announcement. They said 26 were ordered to be executed immediately. Other death sentences were commuted and some people have been granted two years' probation to "reform" themselves.

Of the 26, only two were guilty of actual political crimes. One was said to have hampered criticism of the purged Gang of Four radicals led by Mao's widow, Chiang Ching, and the other to have opposed the policy of sending educated youths to the countryside. The others faced various charges, including murder, stealing mail and looting grain stores.

The Shanghai Supreme Court announcement said the cases had been debated by factory workers and peasants in accordance with Chinese law. Sentences were based on "Central Committee directives on handling counter-revolutionaries".

Travellers arriving in Peking said one of the three men executed in Canton had been under arrest for two years.

Last week nine people were reported to have been executed in the eastern city of Hangchow, mostly for political offences. Travellers have also

Editor accuses Singapore of contempt for press

Hongkong, March 17.—The editor of the Far Eastern Economic Review has replied to allegations made against him by the Singapore Government, including the charge that he disseminated his taped account of a private talk with Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Singapore Prime Minister.

In this week's edition, the editor, Mr Derek Davies, described as a lie a Singapore Home Ministry statement that his taped comments, recorded after a meeting with Mr Lee a year ago, were made for a "wide and indeterminate audience".

Commenting on this point and the ministry allegation that he knew the tape must cause mischief between the leaders of Singapore and Malaysia, Mr Davies wrote: "This is positively breathtaking, on a par with the Goebbels philosophy that 'any lie will be believed if it is big enough'."

Mr Davies said that Mr Lee "has always reserved a special contempt for the press, hardly mitigated by the level to which he has reduced it in Singapore."

He added that his magazine's lawyers had advised him that recent statements by the Singapore Home Ministry and two detainees, including a former Review correspondent, Mr Atun Senkuntavan, contained several libels.

Mr Davies wrote that in attacking the Review, Singapore was attacking a magazine which backed Mr Lee's treatment of hard-core Communists and those who wished to overthrow governments by force.

"He is attacking a magazine which over the years, week by week, has faithfully charted Singapore's progress," he added. Because of the controversy, Mr Davies has sought Singapore's permission to publish his tape in full.—Reuters.

Russians reject protest over detained Jew

By David Watts

The Soviet Embassy in London yesterday refused to accept a letter of protest over the arrest of Mr Anatoly Shcharansky, the Jewish activist detained in Moscow on Tuesday.

His brother-in-law, Mr Mikhail Stiglitz, tried to give it to a second secretary who refused it, asking: "Do you know he is a criminal?"

Mr Shcharansky, who is in Lefortovo prison in Moscow, is under investigation for espionage and anti-Soviet propaganda and activities. He is one of an unofficial group monitoring Soviet implementation of the human rights provisions of the Helsinki accord.

When he applied for a visa to emigrate to Israel in 1973, it was refused and he was subsequently dismissed from his job. His wife, whom he married in 1974, was allowed to leave for Israel.

Mr Stiglitz spoke yesterday of an anti-semitic campaign in the Soviet Union which was reaching such a pitch that activists in the capital feared mass arrests.

"We're now in a critical position," he told a press conference. "Yesterday Shcharansky was arrested, tomorrow

they could arrest all of us. And if there's no immediate reaction from the rest of the world the Russians will do just what they want."

Amsterdam, March 17.—Dr Mikhail Shtern, freed by the Soviet authorities on Tuesday after serving almost three years of an eight-year sentence for allegedly taking bribes at his practice in the Ukraine, is in reasonable condition, his son Viktor said today.



Mr Stiglitz: his letter not welcome at embassy.

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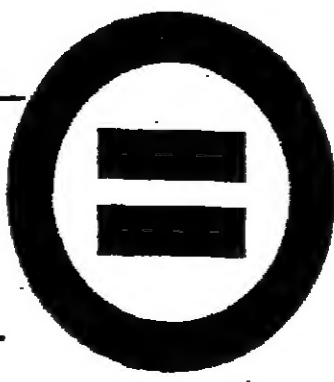
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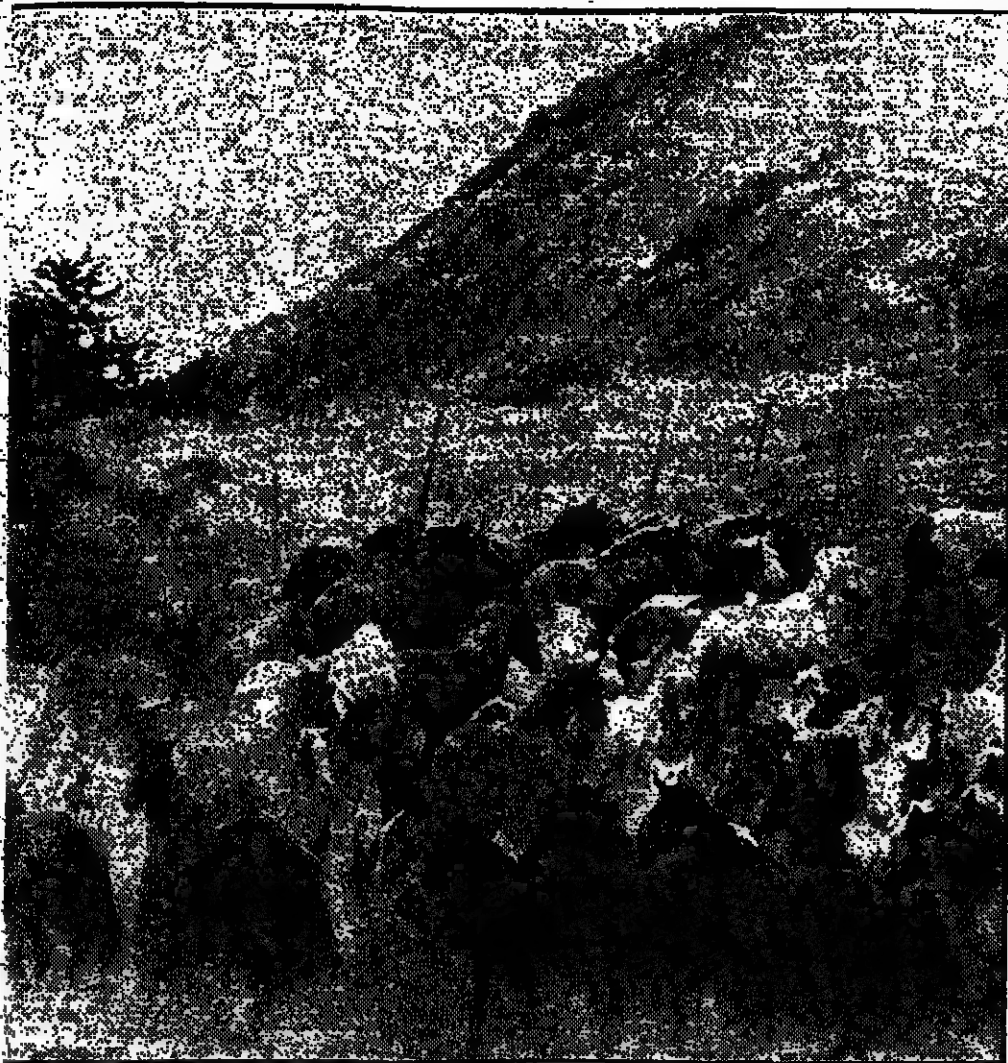
*For Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland, Information Centre, Lindsay House, Callender Street, Belfast BT1 3DT.

T.I.

THE OLD WEST

مكتبة من الكتب

a Special Report on the five northern Great Plains states of the United States



eing wen economically: rounding up horses in traditional style in South Dakota and scooping up topsoil before mining coal in Montana. The bucket can hold about 90 tons of soil.

Ten years of big spending to build a better life

Union Pacific's line travels from the company's headquarters in Omaha due west and parallel with the southern borders of Nebraska and Wyoming. The two states are separated from the 49th Parallel by the Big Sky country of Montana and by the Dakotas, North and South. From the Missouri and Red rivers in the east to the Rocky Mountains in the west, the five states cover an area nearly four times that of Britain and Ireland. Yet their population

numbers fewer than four million.

The land contains some of the richest farming and ranching country in the world. It is rich, too, in minerals; in the quality of its workforce; and in the history and folklore of the New World. Here, Custer died at the hands of Sitting Bull's war party in the Battle of the Little Bighorn; gold was found in the Black Hills of Dakota; Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid made their epic journey from Hole in the Wall, Wyoming; Fort Laramie became a meeting place for Indians and white men in their search for peace; and the granite faces of four of the most famous presidents gaze down from Mount Rushmore.

But history is for the tourists who live and work in this area are more intent on improving the quality of life for themselves and for those who are still arriving to set up home alongside them. Helping them in this task are members of the Old West Regional Commission, now pursuing a six-point programme "to improve the general quality of human existence in the region".

The commission, set up under federal statute, is bent not so much on reducing unemployment, of which there is little, as on providing fuller employment and raising living standards nearer to the national average.

It wishes to raise personal incomes of the non-Indian population to nearly 90 per cent of the expected United States figure by 1985, and over the same period to start closing the gap between them and the region's \$6,000 American Indians. It seeks to prevent the serious dis-

locations that could stem from the rapid, energy-related developments. It is concerned to maintain the quality of the environment, to improve health services and to strengthen the links between people and politicians in the governmental decision-making processes.

All this will cost money. Under the commission's action plan, a public spending programme of approximately \$1,040m (in 1975 \$) or \$104m a year, is proposed over the period from 1975 to 1985. This is money over and above expected public outgoings in the five states. Of the total, \$800m is for investment, of which \$510m will go to improving personal incomes and \$290m to projected energy related community facility needs.

Another \$130m is proposed for employment services linked with income growth goals, and the remaining \$110m is for technical, planning and demonstration assistance in environmental, health and other areas.

A dominant economic difficulty in many areas of the region is the low level of personal and family incomes. This stems in part from the heavy emphasis on agricultural activity, in the broad sense. Few areas of the world equal the output of crops and meat products from the five states. In 1973 the value of all products sold was put at \$8,600m, or more than 10 per cent of the nation's output. Of this, nearly \$5,000m was in the form of livestock and poultry, representing 11 per cent of the nation's production.

Sales at these levels showed increases of about 200 per cent over the 1959

figures. But as output rose, so increased mechanization helped to reduce the number of workers employed and cut back the number of individual farms by more than a quarter, although land use remained roughly the same.

To be successful, both the farmer and the rancher—but particularly the farmer—need ample supplies of water. Overall, the five states have no shortage. But this winter a particularly severe drought has troubled agriculturalists throughout the region, heightening concern about the distribution of supplies and intensifying the age-old difficulty of striking a correct balance between those who work on the land and those whose livelihood is tied to mining and industry.

Mining is water-intensive, yet in its further rapid development lies probably the best hope of making quick advances towards the area's economic goals. The United States is in the grip of a severe energy crisis which is likely to continue for many years.

But oil and natural gas have been produced in abundance in the region, and much of the emphasis is being switched to the exploitation of the huge reserves of coal which lie just below the surface. Uranium deposits, too, are plentiful, and so big is the output from coal-fired and hydroelectric power stations that the region is a net exporter of electricity.

If non-energy minerals like iron, gold, silver, copper, sand and gravel, stone, and limited quantities of lead and zinc are taken into account, the region mined more than \$2,500m-worth in 1974. This

was 4.6 per cent of the nation's output.

Few forestry products are made in the region, with the supply of timber—chiefly from Montana—amounting to only about 5 per cent of the national total. But domestic travel throughout the five states brought in an estimated \$839m in 1972, and the tourist potential in such a diverse and scenic area is considerable. Near the western borders lie the Glacier, Teton and Yellowstone national parks. In the east are the Black Hills, with the Mount Rushmore National Monument and the Custer State Park, and the Badlands of South Dakota.

Historic sites like Fort Laramie have been beautifully and tastefully restored, and pioneering routes such as the Oregon Trail and the route followed by the Lewis and Clark expedition are well signposted. In some parts, the ruins left by the wagon trains are still discernible.

Manufacturing industry is small in scale and is concentrated heavily in Nebraska, the most populated and urbanized of the five states. Much of the activity is linked to agriculture, in the form of food processing and the manufacture of irrigation equipment and farm machinery. But electronic and other equipment are also made, and Nebraskans, together with officials in the four other states, are waging both American and foreign industrialists in an attempt to speed development and diversification.

One of the most significant successes in the Lincoln area of Nebraska has been the decision of Japan's Kawasaki Motors Corporation to produce motor cycles there. A big difficulty facing the

planners in their attempts to entice manufacturers to the five states is the lack of a central population hub around which activity can revolve. Most of the larger towns lie like a necklace, suspended from the eastern and western shoulders of North Dakota and Montana respectively.

The largest cities are Omaha and Lincoln, which together accounted for about half a million people in 1970. Sioux Falls, with 65,500 in the same year, was South Dakota's largest city, followed by Billings (62,000) in Montana; Cheyenne (41,000) in Wyoming; and Grand Forks (39,000) in North Dakota.

East-west road and rail communications are good, but there is little in the way of routes linking the south and north. There are plenty of airfields, many of them with excellent facilities, but air travel between main centres within the region is time-consuming, involving changes in cities outside the region.

In spite of these drawbacks, vast conurbations lie close to the perimeter—in addition to Salt Lake City and Denver, such areas as Minneapolis, Kansas City and Spokane are near. While it is difficult to see many consumer industries locating themselves in the region as yet, there is clearly scope for manufacturers allied to mining equipment, food and agriculture, and clothing.

Among the many attractions the region has to offer are abundant energy supplies; a hard-working, mobile and well-educated labour force; and an environment that offers a quality of life probably unsurpassed in any other part of the world. The region boasts many fine

hunting and fishing areas; it has beautiful lakes and mountains; skiing and snowmobiling are popular winter attractions; horse riding and golfing are available. For those who enjoy the outdoor life, there is almost nothing the area lacks.

Preservation of the environment is essential to the maintenance of these facilities. Farmers and ranchers, many of them still imbued with the spirit of the old frontier and all of them proud of their status as food pro-

ducers to the world, look closely not only at each other's demands for water, but at those of the industrialist.

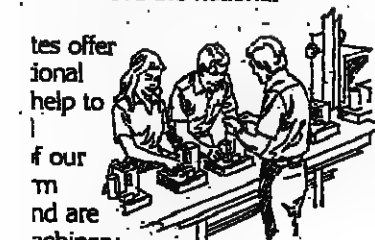
The industrialist, in turn, is controlled by state and federal legislation, and by the proddings of the environmentalists. While such balances exist, and while state officials remain conscious of their duties, there is good reason to hope that the region's beauty will be preserved.

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An independent
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**OLD WEST
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Legends and landscape bring in the tourists

by Peter Strafford

As well as its wheat fields and coalmines, the Old West is also the setting for some of the most spectacular scenery in the United States. Wyoming, for instance, has the soaring beauty of the Teton mountain range and the geysers and hot springs of Yellowstone National Park. South Dakota has Mount Rushmore, where the heads of presidents are carved into the cliffs, and the Black Hills.

Montana, a huge state which describes itself as "the last of the big time splendours", has mountain scenery over most of its western half. In the north on the border with Canada, is Glacier National Park, with its high mountains, grizzly bears and moose. In the south is the site of the battle of Little Bighorn, where General George Custer made his last stand against the Sioux and the Cheyennes in 1876.

The region is full of the history and legends of the West, and the scenery that goes with them. Since the mountain areas are thinly populated, much of it is unspoilt, in spite of the large numbers of tourists

who drive through in the holiday season to camp, hike, fish, or just to gaze impassively through their car windows. In the winter there is skiing.

Even in the winter, there is a flow of visitors to such places as Jackson, Wyoming, provided of course there is snow. Jackson is a small western town in a valley known as Jackson's Hole, dominated by the Tetons. It got its name in the nineteenth century in the days of the "mountain men", who lived a remote life in the area trapping for fur. Each of them had his own valley, known as a hole, and this one belonged to Davey Jackson, who set off from St Louis in 1823.

Today it is a prosperous little town with wooden houses built in western style, wide streets and a lot of hotels. It has art galleries selling western art—paintings and bronzes—and jewelers who use Wyoming jade and other local stones in elaborate ways. Many of the inhabitants have come from elsewhere in search of an uncluttered life.

From Jackson I took a winter trip through the Grand Teton National Park to Yellowstone. There was snow on the ground which meant that when we got to Yellowstone we had to

transfer to a snow coach, an ungainly-looking vehicle which has tracks at the back and skis in front. About 10 or 12 people can be packed into this machine and in we made our way over the snow-covered roads of the park.

With its forests, lakes, waterfalls and canyons, Yellowstone has some spectacular scenery. But its most exotic features are the geysers, the hot springs, and the little bubbling mud volcanoes which transform many parts of the park into a scene from the end of the world, with water and steam pouring out of the ground, snow or no snow.

There are said to be more than 10,000 of these thermal features. The best known of them is the geyser Old Faithful, which erupts between 20 and 23 times a day, shooting up a column of water and steam to an average height of 130ft. Each time it does this between 5,000 and 7,000 gallons are forced out of the ground by the heat and pressure that build up underneath.

There are thought to be only three other places in the world which have a comparable concentration of thermal features—Iceland, New Zealand and Kamchatka, in Siberia.

The other side of the region's appeal is the part it played in the history of the West. This history began, so far as white Americans are concerned, with the expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark between 1804 and 1806 on the orders of President Jefferson. Lewis and Clark made their way through what are now Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota and Montana before travelling down the Columbia river to the Pacific. Much of their route is still known.

Later, the region became the scene of the wars between the United States and the Indians of the Great Plains as the frontier was gradually pushed farther west. Forts were set up many of their sites still marked, and there were clashes such as Little Bighorn and the massacre of Sioux Indians at Wounded Knee. South Dakota, by the United States cavalry in 1890.

General Custer set off for his final battle from Fort Lincoln, North Dakota, south of Bismarck, and the site of his camp can still be seen. At Little Bighorn, the battle is commemorated by a monument, set up on the Crow Indian reservation. There was a ceremony there last June for the hundredth

anniversary with whites and Indians taking part.

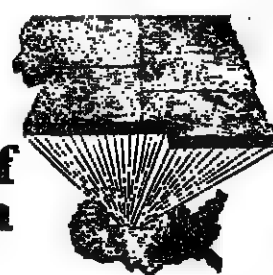
Then there are all the legends of the Wild West, the outlaws and the gun-fights. Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid, and many others. There may not be much of that left now, but the legends live on and are one of the things that draw tourists to the West.

Montana is full of stories about cattle rustlers, fights with Indians, clashes between gold miners and people with names like Calamity Jane. In Lander, Wyoming, there is a club known as the Mountain Men Association whose members have sworn off all twentieth-century devices and try to live as the mountain men did in the old days.

Meanwhile the Indians live as best they can on the reservations they were given, often impoverished, but now beginning to try to reassert their rights. There are shops all over the region which carry the jewelry they make, ornate and beautifully worked, with turquoise and other stones set in sterling silver. That is The American West, and it begins once you have crossed the seemingly endless expanse of the Middle West and see the Rocky Mountains rising up out of the plains ahead of you.

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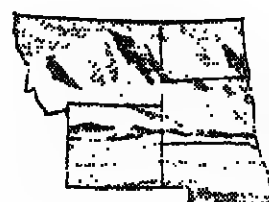


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Streak of populism in a conservative region

by Peter Strafford



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Politically, the Old West is a conservative part of the United States. Nebraska, for instance, is regarded as one of the most Republican states in the country, and in Senator Carl Curtis, who has held his seat since 1955, has one of the most conservative members of Congress (Senator Roman Hruska, who retired as the state's other senator last year after 22 years in the Senate, was another).

Yet Democrats do get elected in all five states, particularly to state and local offices. All five governors are Democrats. The conservatism of the region has not prevented the election of such liberal figures as Senator George McGovern of South Dakota, the Democratic presidential candidate in 1972, and Mr. Mike Mansfield, who has just retired after being the leader of the Democratic majority in the Senate.

Probably the main reason is that there is a streak of populism running through the region's politics, especially in the three eastern-most states, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska,

in all of which farming is important. The Non-Partisan League (NPL), for instance, with its socialist programme, was formed in North Dakota in 1915, and something of its influence lingers on.

Governor Arthur Link of North Dakota says that he is a product of the NPL, though its policies are less radical now than they were. He points out that the state still owns one of the main banks, the Bank of North Dakota, and that its profits go into the state budget—a most unusual arrangement in the United States. This is the result of NPL policies in the past, as is the state ownership of a mill and elevator company for handling grain.

Even in Nebraska, all electric power is produced by publicly owned corporations, which have in a sense been nationalized industries since the 1930s.

Like other parts of the United States, the Old West is very much a product of its geography and history. In the eastern part it has some of the richest agricultural land in the world, which required hard work to bring under the plough, Nebraska farmers are anxious to retain their traditional family-based system of agriculture, and are afraid of big irrigation

schemes which could bring in big corporations and "agribusiness". The whole area was originally settled by people who moved out from the east, looking for farmland to till or mines to work; many families still have memories of parents, grandparents and others who came west on this search, often in one of the traditional covered wagons. So the principles of individual effort, mutual assistance and resistance to the interference of the Federal Government are still much cherished.

At the same time there is an attitude of defensiveness towards other parts of the United States—the east, the west, and even the south these days. People speak proudly of the contribution their farms make to the national economy, but in other ways there is a sense that they are on the periphery. It was the sense that they were being exploited by big financial interests which led to the populist movement and such groups as the NPL.

The Old West is a vast area, spread over plains and mountains. But it has small population, which is reflected in its large Indian population.

These days one of the main concerns of the whole area is the water supply. Most of the states have been hit to a greater or lesser extent by the drought now affecting the western United States, and it is a serious matter for farmers who rely so much on irrigation. There is no crisis so far, but the water shortage has made people conscious of the need to think about water resources in the future.

Farther west, the land turns into ranching country. After that come the Rocky Mountains, with all their mineral wealth, in western Wyoming and Montana. Montana has been the scene of conflicts in the past between the big mining and power interests and miners. Today, the question is how much to press ahead with economic development, and how much account to take of the need to protect the environment.

There is in fact concern in many areas about being the victims of rapid economic change. In North Dakota there is a deliberate policy of going slow on the exploitation of the extensive coal deposits in the west of the state, in order to avoid the rapid disruption of the life of the small farming communities in the area.

In Montana, there are environmentalist groups which are concerned about the effects of strip mining and work for more stringent reclamation of the land after the coal has been taken out. In South Dakota and Nebraska farmers are anxious to retain their traditional family-based system of agriculture, and are afraid of big irrigation

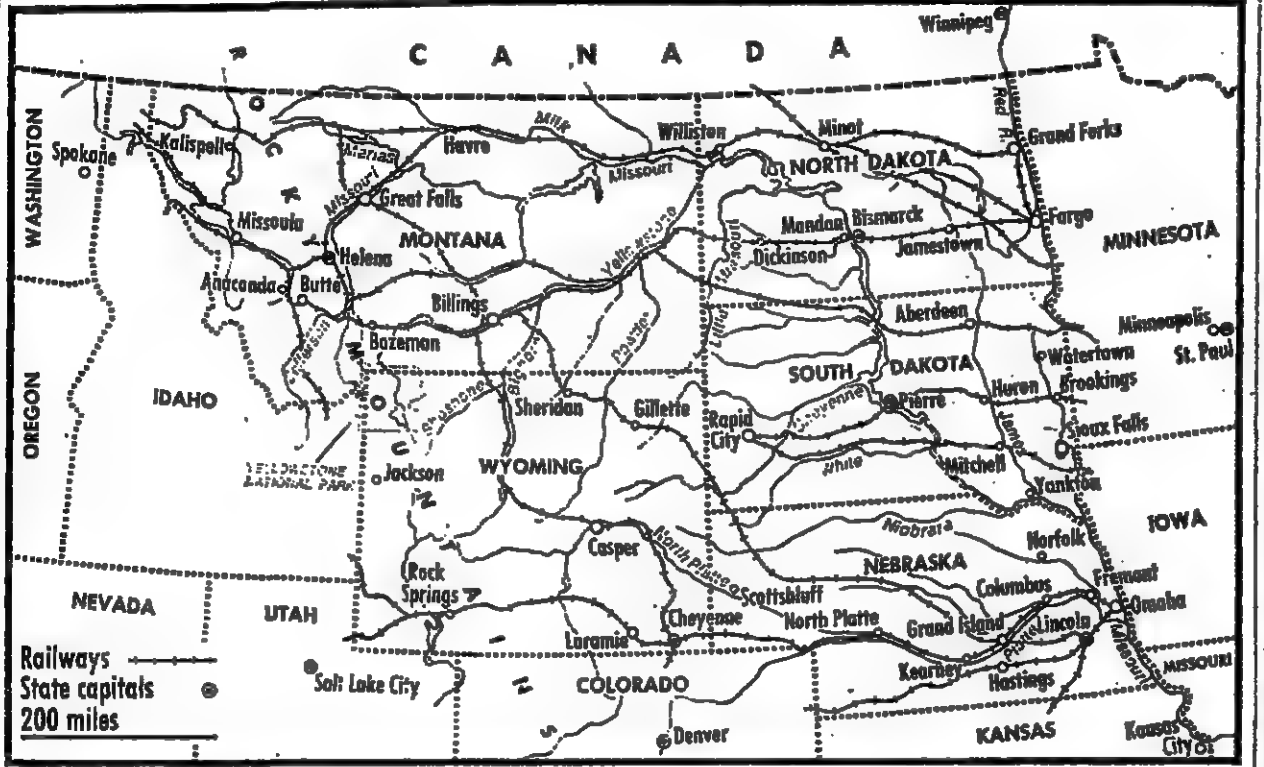


The old trail town of Cody provides a glimpse of Wyoming's pioneer past.

50 states of the union, with a population of about 1,500,000. Wyoming with a population of about 330,000, ranks forty-fourth, ahead only of Alaska.

On an income a head basis, Wyoming is the richest of the five, ranking twenty-seventh, while South Dakota is the poorest, ranking forty-fourth—partly a reflection of its large Indian population.

In Nebraska, for instance, there are plentiful supplies of water underground. But the question of water rights has built up into a big political issue, and the state legislature has still to decide whether or not of underground water belongs to the farmer who owns the land above it. There are fears that Texas or outsiders of one sort or another might try to come and take Nebraska's water.



A Minuteman missile on display in front of Strategic Air Command Headquarters at Offutt, near Omaha.

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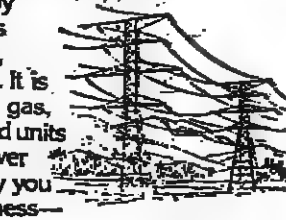
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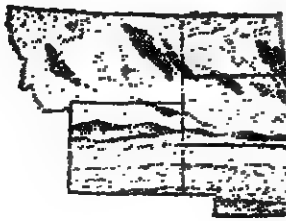


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Open about undercover missiles

Buried in silos in the plains of the Old West are many of the missiles that make up the United States nuclear deterrent. There are Minutemen at bases in North Dakota and South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana, and also B52 bombers in Nebraska and the Dakotas.

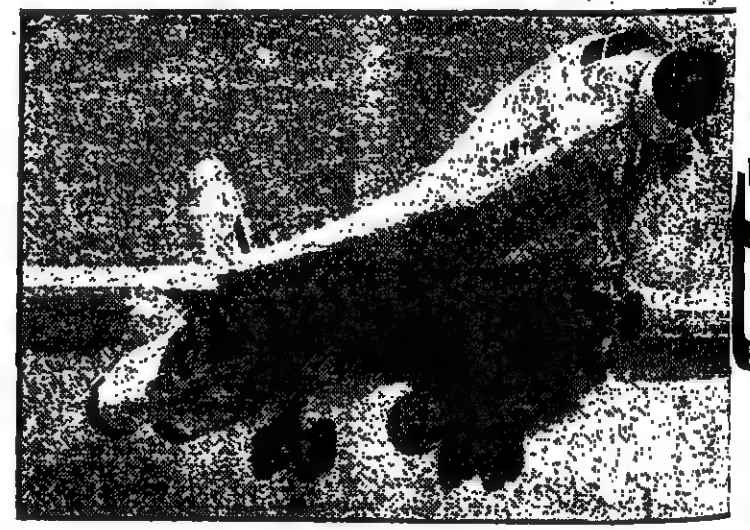
At the headquarters of Strategic Air Command (SAC) outside Omaha, Nebraska, officers make no secret of where the missiles and the bombers are. They distribute maps showing the bases, and even have a chart with the layout of the missiles at Offutt Air Force base in South Dakota, which they describe as a typical missile wing dispersal.

This openness is a deliberate part of the policy of deterrence, they say, because it means that the Russians, or anyone else, know what they have to contend with. But the presumption must be that the Russians have some information of their own, in any case, on the missile sites.

SAC headquarters is the place from which the rockets and the nuclear bombers will be launched if ever the Russians and the Americans decide to make total war. Set on the edge of rolling country a few miles outside Omaha, it is a sprawling Air Force base which contains the underground command post, known as the bunker, from which the orders would go out to get the nuclear bombers into the air and to turn the keys that launch the missiles.

The bunker is a three-story structure with a 24in thick base, 24in walls and a roof that varies from 24in to 36in. At its heart is the control room where General Russell Dougherty, the Commander-in-Chief, sits on a balcony with a row of telephones, overlooking an array of consoles and more telephones, manned by his staff. In front of him are six huge screens on which information about the situation is flashed by computer as it develops.

Telephones link him with the President in Washington and with SAC bases all the way across the North American continent. He is also linked with that other Air Force redoubt, the headquarters of the North American Aerospace Defence Command, deep in



A major decision for President Carter will be whether to defence strike force of B52 bombers in favour of the longer bomber, the B1.

side Cheyenne mountain, outside Colorado Springs in Colorado. It is recognized, however, that despite all the reinforced concrete the Omaha command post could not survive a direct nuclear hit. So there is also an airborne command post, set up in a specially-equipped aircraft, from which control can be exercised in a crisis. An aircraft of this sort, manned by a senior officer and his staff, is in fact permanently in the air, with one aircraft taking over from another around the clock. This arrangement has been in operation since February 3, 1961.

It was a command post aircraft of this sort that President Carter recently used for a flight from Washington to Plains, Georgia. But the one he flew in was larger, more fully equipped, basically a Boeing 747.

General Dougherty does not have the authority to launch any of SAC's missiles of his own initiative; only the President can do that. But General Dougherty can order the B52s into the air in an emergency, to ensure that they are not caught like sitting ducks by a sudden attack. The aircraft then make their way to predetermined staging areas and, if they do not receive further orders from the President to go onto the attack, are expected to return to base. SAC calls this procedure "positive control" and

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Grain sales help to offset US trade deficit

Flynn Ell

Agricultural dollar signs have been spinning in the eyes of American politicians since 1974 when United States farmers sold foreign \$22,000m worth of their products.

That effort, largely due to grain sales by the Nixon administration to the Soviet Union, helped to offset the nation's trade deficit caused mainly by surging prices of Arab oil.

In the Old West Regional Commission states of Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, during that period reduced a feeling that the me of the West's agricultural importance had finally arrived.

The importance of the West's massive seams of energy arrived at the same time. Dollar signs are spun wildly in the eyes of industrialists and speculators, too, bent on cashing in on the latest boom.

But it is the climate that nature creates which is not operating with agricultural optimism and energy opponents.

Some who lived through the Great Depression or the so-called dirty thirties, when farmers saw their crops blow away in huge clouds of dust, say nature never has operated. Some say it ever will.

The critical question is water and no one has yet been able to create water or provide it when needed, though cloud-seeding is being explored by state, federal and private scientists.

The West is again facing a severe drought in 1977, with record low snowfall in the mountains and almost no precipitation lower down.

Some experts have thought that America has the technology to grow indefinitely, but water, or the lack of it, probably more than any one factor will determine the future of agricultural growth.

The water question is both immediate and long term for agriculture. Governor Thomas L. Judge, of Montana and a member of the Old West Regional Commission, outlined some of the difficulties in 1975.

Mr. Judge said what he missed him was a report on

the Yellowstone basin, released in 1975 by Montana water experts, which pointed out that there was no water to spare in the Yellowstone.

"While water-use projections are not commitments they do illustrate possible future depletions and there is not enough water in the basin completely to satisfy all possible water uses", the report said.

The governors then talked of the need for energy and food, learning that the energy exploiters could pay \$200 an acre-foot (enough water to cover one acre with one foot of water), while agriculture might be hard pressed to pay \$20.

Mr. Hiram Drache, a Minnesota agriculture author and historian, told a different story last month. His latest book, *Beyond the Furrow*, chronicles farming in America from the horse and plough to the latest in four-wheel drive tractors.

Mr. Drache said that fuel and water are the two biggest problems in agriculture. Fuel shortages, he thought, might be alleviated by agriculture growing its own through new processes for converting grain to alcohol.

But agriculture, he pointed out, may run out of water even if it could pay more than \$20 an acre-foot. In the Phoenix, Arizona, area irrigators pay as much as \$180 an acre annually and split the available water with expanding communities, he said.

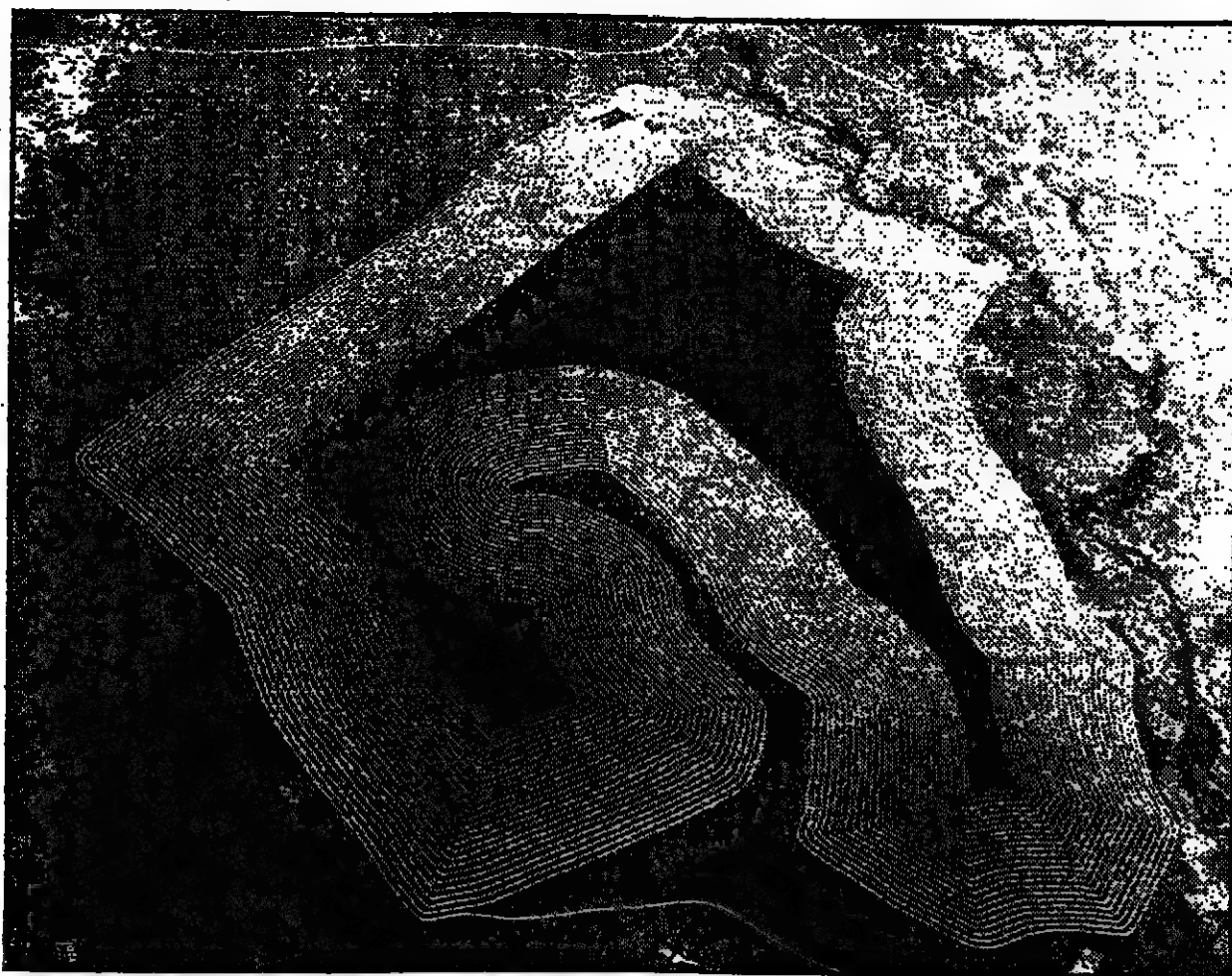
The tough part, according to Mr. Drache, is that within 10 years the metropolitan area of Phoenix will double, as will its water needs.

Who will get the water and where will food come from if the cities get it, he asked. Those are questions the entire West faces as populations expand.

Besides facing the prospect of drought and long range water shortages, President Carter has recently threatened to cut off grants to 19 federal water projects.

Two of those of most immediate concern to the Old West Regional Commission states are the Garrison and the Oahe reservoir in North Dakota and the Oahe reservoir in South Dakota.

Critics have objected to the diversion of environmental degradation and disruption of existing life styles and very strongly believe there is a limit to the carrying capacity of the West. We're going to have to cut down our growth rate", he said.



A bird's-eye view of the fields of Wyoming, free of the cloud which is important to their continuing fertility.

Bureau of Reclamation. Oahe, which would irrigate 190,000 acres, is only 15 per cent complete and Garrison, a 250,000-acre irrigation development, is 20 per cent finished.

What both might do in terms of increasing agricultural productivity is indicated by the Bureau of Reclamation alone and many more acres under private development.

Also, dry land farming restricts the kind of crops which can be grown, while irrigated land will produce a variety of row crops, such as sugarbeet and potatoes.

Millions of federal dollars are at stake in what President Carter decides to do with the federal water projects, whose fate he will decide in April.

Governor Richard Lamm of Colorado admitted this month that the President's scrutiny of the massive water projects may be justified.

"The days of large-scale western water projects are coming to an end. Grandiose schemes about making the deserts bloom? Some of us have more modest goals and expectations now. I very strongly believe there is a limit to the carrying capacity of the West. We're going to have to cut down our growth rate", he said.

Despite the admissions of guilt, most western politicians will bauld furiously to obtain funds from President Carter for their water projects.

Irrigation, whatever its future, is certainly a part of western agriculture. There are nearly two million acres in the five-state Old West regional area fed water by the Bureau of Reclamation alone and many more acres under private development.

Promises of more to come

While farmers and cattlemen of the West bemoan the present low prices which they claim do not allow them to meet the cost of production, the industry gets bigger and bigger, with promises by experts of more to come.

Historically, according to Mr. Drache, one third of America's farmers fail, one third make a living, and one third are successful.

The last are those who use computers in successful management and the latest in agricultural techniques, Mr. Drache said.

However, neither computer nor wishful thinking

bucketload of information on growing common ailments which were being treated as the latest in soil nutrients.

"I've been offered \$4 a bushel for my wheat if I can prove it is organically grown", he said. Organically grown means grown without the aid of artificial pesticides and fertilizers.

There is little likelihood that that farmer can use a whole has heightened the constant debate on water.

Supplies in the Old West region have proved adequate. The huge rivers, the vast underground reservoirs, the man-made surface dams and natural catchment areas, and the normally heavy winter snowfalls which fill depleted basins in the spring thaw, combine to ensure a plentiful supply.

But the distribution is not even: some areas have a surplus, others a serious deficiency. In addition, as the region grows industrially, so demand for water increases.

One of the most spectacular growth trends in recent years has been in mining, particularly for coal and other fuels, and mining is a water intensive activity. Increased usage by this and other industries is, not unnaturally, causing acute concern to the farming and ranching community, since much of the water is not being returned to ground or

The author is agriculture correspondent, Billings Gazette.

Battles waged over precious resource

by Dennis Topping

Mrs Frank Jones, the cab driver who took me from the airport to the ski resort of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, said business was bad. The sun shone brilliantly from a clear blue sky and the snow seemed thick upon the Grand Teton and the Gros Ventre mountain range near by.

But Mrs Jones said that old timers in Jackson described the drought as the worst in living memory. "Quite often the snow's lying five feet deep here. Now you can see not only the sagebrush but the grass, too. Without the snow, we don't get the skiers. My takings are 75 per cent down this year."

Several hundred miles to the north, in Montana, the Billings Gazette was claiming that agriculture, the state's number one industry, was "in trouble". Mr Jim Wempner, vice-president of Midland National Bank, said the combination of low grain, sugar beet and cattle prices with drought and possible fuel shortages was the most unusual he had experienced in 20 years in the agricultural business.

The westerners' preoccupation with weather is as strong as that of the English and, given the important role played by farming and ranching in the Old West region, certainly more justified. The prolonged drought in the western states as a whole has heightened the constant debate on water.

Supplies in the Old West region have proved adequate. The huge rivers, the vast underground reservoirs, the man-made surface dams and natural catchment areas, and the normally heavy winter snowfalls which fill depleted basins in the spring thaw, combine to ensure a plentiful supply.

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One of the most spectacular growth trends in recent years has been in mining, particularly for coal and other fuels, and mining is a water intensive activity. Increased usage by this and other industries is, not unnaturally, causing acute concern to the farming and ranching community, since much of the water is not being returned to ground or

downstream resources. Such consumption is also bringing increasing complaints from the growing band of highly vocal environmentalists, who argue that the area's wild life and ecology in general will be ruined if greater care is not taken.

The Old West Regional Commission has drawn attention to the question in forceful fashion. It points out that in the 1960s, water usage increased by 70 per cent, and more than 80 per cent was consumed never to be regained.

This growth rate in use, it says, "was over twice the national figure for the same period. Considerable competition between irrigation and energy-related developments for existing water resources could develop in localized areas in the region during the next 10 years. There also exist a number of institutional barriers constraining the transfer and use of water."

Battles between various interests over this lifeblood of agriculture and industry are many and varied. Perhaps two examples will suffice to give a flavour of the difficulties faced.

The state of Nebraska, represented by officials in Lincoln, is engaged in complex litigation arising from the Missouri Basin Power project on the Laramie river in Wyoming. A group of companies engaged in the generation and transmission of electricity put forward a scheme to build a 1,500 megawatt power station late in 1973.

As required by law, assessments were made of the impact of this project on the environment. Nebraska argues that those assessments did not adequately state the effect that the building of a reservoir and other matters would have on neighbouring water supplies.

It contends that the project would lower river levels in its area, thus making irrigation of farmland more difficult. The state sued in November, 1976, and is awaiting a court hearing, probably this summer.

Many people regard the action as a test case in the Old West, since projects mooted for other areas could create similar difficulties.

The second battle, equally long standing, is between, on the one hand, advocates of a pipeline system for moving coal and, on the other, Nebraska, the railroads, the agricultural community, and environmentalists. Pipeline

supporters say that if they were allowed to crush coal mined in Wyoming, they could mix it with water and pump it at a rate of 25 million tons a year "clear through to Arkansas".

Something like 6,500 million gallons of water would be needed for the project, and the state of Wyoming has agreed that this could be taken from underground resources in its territory. The pipeline would cover some 1,100 miles, with its head at Gillette and its mouth near Little Rock. The water would be taken from the Madison limestone formation, which covers 10,000 to 15,000 sq miles, and might involve drilling to a depth of 10,000 ft in some places.

Opponents of the scheme say that to drain water off at this rate ("when it gets to Arkansas, all you will have is the most God-awful mess you ever saw") is madness. The railroads are up in arms because they see a threat to their freight business, and they are refusing to allow the pipeline on their land. More than 50 crossings would be required over the length of the route, Nebraska and other states are concerned because they, too, take supplies in part from the Madison formation.

Regional leaders acknowledge that projects designed to move water to areas where supplies are short "continue to be one of the more difficult problems to resolve". Proposals to "examine the feasibility" of diverting water from the Missouri westward into the south-western section of North Dakota were rejected by the state's own legislature two years ago. Although it was said that the water would be used for many purposes, suggestions that substantial quantities would go to coal development were strongly opposed.

As far as industry is concerned the largest single use of water in the region is made by the generators of thermoelectric power. Something like 70 per cent of all the water drained off for industrial use went in that fashion in 1970, with Nebraska, the most populated of the five states, accounting for 60 per cent. Controversy over the use of water is not new: indeed, it has been going on since the farmers and ranchers first began settling west of the Missouri. Unless there is a radical change in the area's climate it will continue with growing force in the years to come.

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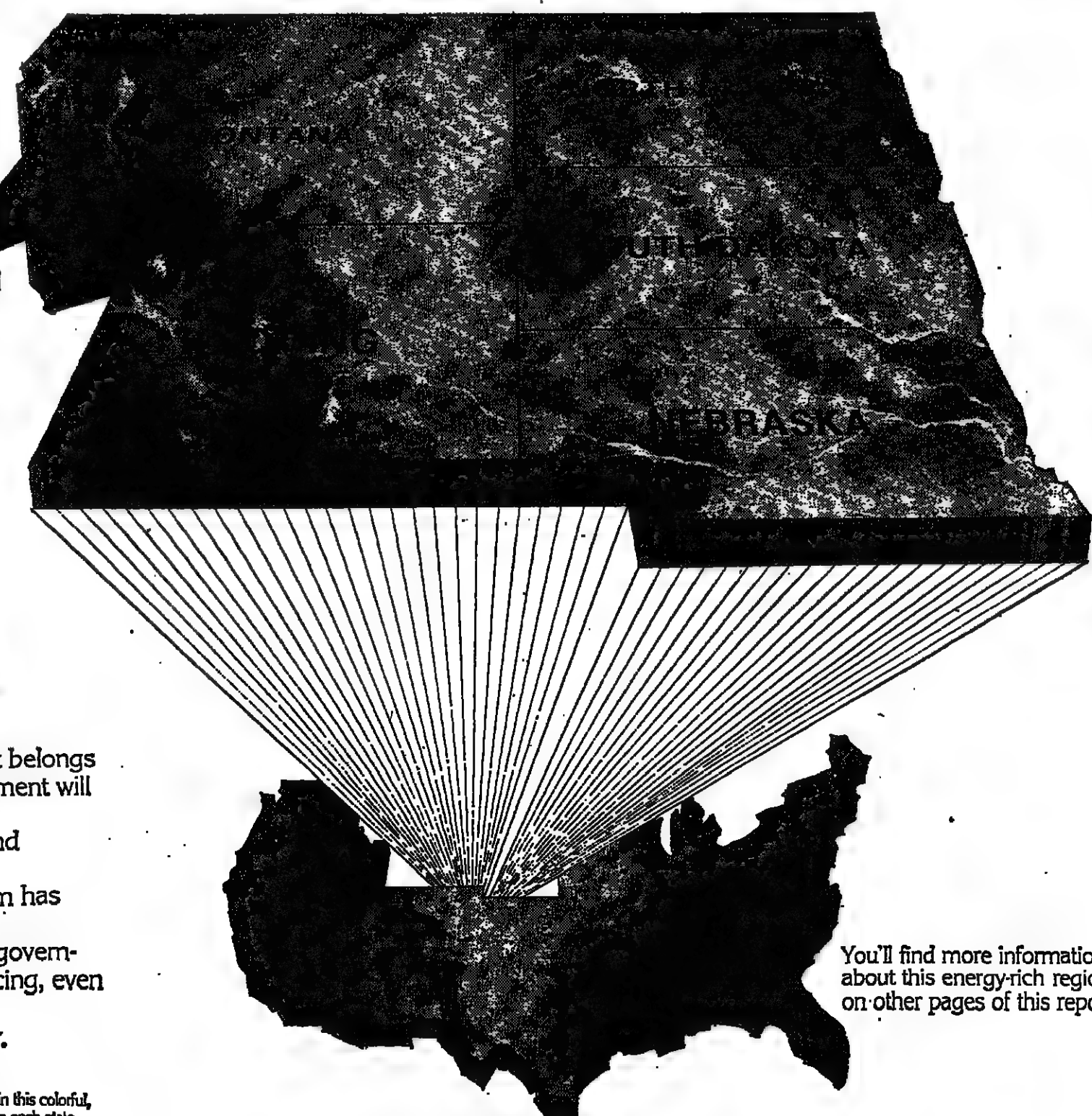
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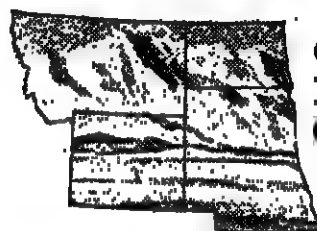
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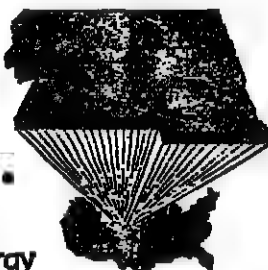
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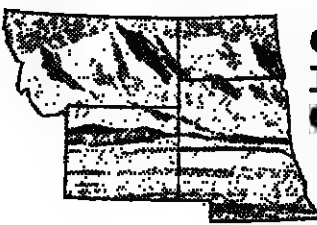


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OLD WEST REGIONAL COMMISSION
We welcome you and your business

On this and the facing page Dennis Topping outlines the prospects for the vast mineral resources and the railroads

Ill winds of Opec and winter blow region good luck

When the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries raised the price of oil in 1973, Americans began to realize, possibly for the first time in their history, the truth about fuel economics. The lesson was brought home this winter, as unprecedented storms swept the eastern seaboard of the United States, bringing with them the coldest temperatures "since the founding of the republic." The bicentennial winter—the most severe since a Philadelphia clerk began in 1758 the country's oldest continuous record of daily temperature readings—will not easily be forgotten.

But what is "bad" for America is possibly good for the energy-rich lands of Montana, Wyoming and North Dakota. For the fuel shortage has dramatically highlighted the importance of this area, with its oil, natural gas, coal and uranium deposits. Its coal-fueled and hydroelectric power stations, and its continuing investigations into the economics and technicalities of coal gasification plants.

The Old West Regional Commission's best hope of reaching its short-term goal of doubling its income probably lies in even more rapid exploitation of energy-producing fuels, particularly coal. Although oil has been, and remains, the area's biggest dollar earner, output has been declining in recent years, and the biggest potential is now seen to rest with the coal deposits.

These are huge. Total identified reserves are close to 700,000 million tons. If hypothetical resources in unmapped and unexplored

areas of well over 800,000 million tons are added, total resources of more than 1,500,000 million tons may exist.

Moreover, much of the coal is readily accessible, in many areas it lies in seams up to 200 ft thick; just below the surface and capable of being won by fairly simple open-pit methods. The main coalfields lie in the Fort Union area, which covers parts of Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota. Coal is also present in South Dakota, but extraction costs in that state make it unlikely that the fields will be exploited in the foreseeable future.

Nearly half the coal produced in the region in 1974 (41,500,000 short tons worth \$198m, or 7 per cent of the national total) came from Wyoming. Montana supplied roughly a third, and North Dakota a fifth. Over the past few years, output levels have almost doubled. But more important to the region's economy has been the fact that dollar values of the coal produced have shown marked increases. In the same period, it is estimated that the value of output has gone up by more than 280 per cent. This, coupled with the rising demand for energy, augurs well for the future.

Emphasis is being placed on coal chiefly because of its abundance. Reserves of oil and natural gas are seen to be much more finite. In 1974 the region produced 6.5 per cent of the nation's crude oil and 1.6 per cent of its natural gas. Although output was tending to decline, the value shot up following the Arab oil embargo.

The leading producer in value terms was again Wyoming, with more than 70 per cent, followed by Montana (over 15 per cent) and North Dakota (about 10 per cent). But if the known reserves continue to be exploited at current rates, the oil could be gone in 10 years, and the gas in between 12 and 15 years. These estimates disregard, however, the possibility of new finds being made in other areas.

Because of the availability of coal and lignite, many companies are exploring the possibility of producing synthetic natural gas in pilot gasification plants. Several of these exist, but so far none has been developed on a commercial scale, either in the five states or in the United States as a whole. This is chiefly because of the high capital costs that would be involved, and because of uncertainties about the regulatory framework, particularly where prices are concerned, that might be imposed by the federal authorities.

As fuel shortages intensify, these problems could lessen—particularly if subsidies or special, low-priced contracts were introduced to encourage producers.

In recent years the amount and proportion of power generated by hydroelectric power plants have fallen. In 1973 the amount fell to 17,200,000 MW, or 40.5 per cent of the five states' total. But in the same year other power generating facilities, notably coal-fired stations, provided 25,300,000 MW, or nearly 60 per cent of available supplies. The coal stations' con-

tribution to the total was 19 million MW, or about 45 per cent of the regional total, while natural gas facilities provided 5,200,000 MW (more than 12 per cent).

All this was more than sufficient for the five states' needs, enabling them to export more than 9 million MW, or some 20 per cent of the total, over the region's borders. This was a considerable increase over the figures for earlier years.

In the longer term, another prolific source of energy could prove to be the region's uranium deposits. Production of this mineral has fallen in recent years, chiefly because the nation's stockpiles were considered adequate to meet current needs. Despite this, about a sixth of the total uranium available in the United States is thought to be contained in the region, the bulk of it lying in the southern portion of Wyoming's Powder river basin.

Although the energy minerals in general—and coal in particular—are fairly easily accessible, the rapid exploitation of deposits is bound to cause problems. Controversies have raged, and are continuing to rage, over many projects. Agricultural areas are feared that the building of reservoirs to supply power stations will divert precious water supplies from their land.

There are arguments, too, over potential air and water pollution problems, some of them verging on the ludicrous. Proposed legislation before the state of Montana's Senate for example would, if approved, seek to bring Canadian projects

contributing to air and water pollution in Montana under the jurisdiction of the state's air and water quality standards; court actions could result against persons or corporations in the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Not surprisingly, the Canadians are said to have responded "with concern and laughter" to these proposals; but they nevertheless indicate the kind of passions aroused.

As demand for fuel rises, greater strains will be placed on the region's rail system. The railmen say they can cope with the additional traffic, but they acknowledge that as they seek to increase train frequencies they will run into opposition from local communities who wish to reduce noise and minimize road traffic delays. The railmen are also deeply enmeshed in various arguments over coal slurry pipelines. Although their basic concern is to preserve and expand their traditional freight business, they have the support of water conservationists, environmentalists and many state officials. Where the open-pit mining of coal is concerned, stringent state and federal regulations have been drawn up in a bid to ensure that the land is properly restored after the coal has been ripped from it.

Given patience and good will, there is no reason why the problems, difficult as they are, should be insurmountable. What seems certain is that the demand for fuel will in the end prove to be overwhelming.

All that matters is not gold

In 1874 Horatio N. Ross, a member of Lieutenant-Colonel George Armstrong Custer's military expedition from Fort Abraham Lincoln, found gold along French Creek in the central Black Hills of Dakota. In the rush that followed, the brothers Moses and Fred Manuel, with their partner Hank Harney, staked claim to the Homestake Lodge, or Lead, in Deadwood Creek.

Today the small mining town of Lead (pronounced "Lead"), a few miles from the graves of Wild Bill Hickock and Calamity Jane in Deadwood City, houses what is arguably the largest gold mine in the Americas, and probably the oldest active one.

Gold is the most glamorous of the non-fuel minerals found in the five Old West states, but it is by no means the only one. The region is rich, too, in iron, copper, silver, stone, sand and gravel. Output of copper from Montana, for example, was worth more than \$20m in 1974, and it has shown significant increases over the past 15 years. The search for, and development of, all kinds of mineral deposits continues ceaselessly.

Trona, from which comes the soda ash, is found in abundance in the area around Rock Springs, Wyoming—a brown and barren stretch of land which, but for the absence of cash, might well be mistaken for parts of New Mexico or Arizona.

Once a small settlement best known as a point along Union Pacific's route to the west and a haunt of Burch Cassidy and the Hole in the Wall gang, Rock Springs is now a fast-growing sprawl of houses, hotels, trailer homes and gas stations.

With Green River, the adjacent "capital" of people, and are recovering something like seven million tons of soda ash a year.

Stautter's Big Island mine is yielding 1,350,000 tons of soda ash a year, and this is expected to rise to 1,500,000 tons in a few months' time. The main shaft has been taken down to 850ft, but those in other mines are nearly twice this depth. Below, orthodox room-and-pillar mining methods are favoured, using conventional coal-mining techniques with some adaptations.

Electric cars carry the men along several miles of galleries to the faces, where the smell of ammonia testifies to the use of ammonium nitrate to blast the trona free from the surrounding shale. Above ground, the refinery buildings lie covered in a film of white, talcum-like dust. Top hands, with special additional payments for such things as "graveyard" and weekend shifts, can expect to earn more than \$900 a month—and the gap between them and the lowest paid is not wide.

At least one of the operators employs British miners,

who are highly valued for their skills in what, to many of them, are ideal and fairly easy working conditions. The British, in the form of the Cornish tin miners, were in, too, on the development of the Homestake Mining Company's gold workings at Lead, in South Dakota.

Over the past 100 years, the Homestake Mine has milled more than 115 million tons of ore to produce 31,500,000 oz of gold and seven million oz of silver.

The largest working of its kind in North America—and, with another mine in the Dominican Republic, the largest in the Americas—its shafts have now been driven to a depth of 3,000ft where rock temperatures are put at 135°.

Mr. Ralph Tibble, former copper miner who is assistant general manager at Homestake, says that the ore now being won averages about one fifth of an ounce of gold in every ton of material. The price in the last week of February was in the region of \$149 an ounce.

"There was a time when we had to sell it at \$35 an ounce," Tibble says, "and mining was fast becoming an uneconomic proposition. But now we can sell to any jewellers or manufacturing companies with a licence, in this country or abroad, and last year our production totalled \$23,000m."

"We reckon to average metal.

325,000 to 350,000oz a year, and we just about broke even on last year's output, what with production problems and the low price of gold. The average selling price in 1976 was \$126. But given today's prices, things are looking real good."

Homestake gives direct employment to about 1,600 people in the area, about 1,000 of whom work below ground. The proved ore reserves are sufficient for another eight years' work, but the estimate is misleading. Exploration continues as each seam is worked, and the lifespan of the pit has been continually lengthened over the years.

The days when nuggets and clear traces of gold were seen in the mine have long since passed. Today, only a microscope will reveal the metal in the dark grey rock.

Gold and silver, from mines in Montana as well as in South Dakota, were the Old West region's major contribution to the nation's mineral output in the more distant past. They have now been overtaken by other minerals. But Homestake itself still accounts for roughly a quarter of the United States' total output of gold. And although the value of production has been declining in recent years while that of Montana has been rising, it remains the preeminent producer of many most sought-after

Answer lies under the soil

So vast are the deposits of coal in the Old West region, and in some areas the effects of man's attempts to extract them so visible, that they tend to distract the visitors' attention from other fuels. Coal is fast becoming king throughout the land. But the countryside is rich in oil, natural gas and uranium, and there is intense interest in the gasification of coal.

In 1951 the output of crude oil for the region was put at just over 80 million barrels, worth \$176m. Twenty years later the comparable figure was nearly 215 million barrels valued at just under \$670m. By 1974, output had dropped to slightly below 210 million barrels, or 6.5 per cent of total United States output, but the value soared to \$1,365m. This 104 per cent increase in value between 1971 and 1974 reflected the impact of the Arab oil embargo.

Over the same period the dollar value of the region's natural gas rose by a third. The output of this, in 1951 was 112,000 million cu ft worth nearly \$8m. It rose to 450,000 million cu ft in 1971 (\$68.5m), and dropped to less than 350,000 million cu ft (\$91m) three years later.

In 1974 more than 95 per cent of the region's oil and natural gas output, in value terms, came from more than 90 per cent of potential reserves, are in this area.

Most of the uranium mines and mills are in Wyoming. Among the areas where development is going forward are Douglas, the Shirley Basin, Pumpkin Buttes, and more recently the Red Desert area near Rock Springs. Exploration began in the 1950s, under the aegis of the AEC, and all the signs were that another boom industry was being developed.

Much of the "yellow cake" was strip mined, although some underground mining was introduced in Converse County, where Douglas is situated. The work is carried out by private enterprise, with Nuclear Regulatory Commission controlling the disposal of output.

Uranium also exists in South Dakota, and in the past a mine at Edgemont has produced significant quantities of ore—an output of 43,000 tons was recorded in 1961. This mine and related equipment were subsequently bought by the Tennessee Valley Authority, which embarked on a study of the uranium processing

Powder river basin in Wyoming. Estimates suggest that there are more than 90 per cent of known reserves, and more than 70 per cent of potential reserves, are in this area.

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mill, not at present operating. At the end of last month this investigation had almost been completed, and about 30 or 40 employees were engaged on the taking of core samples. Several companies have uranium claims in the area, including the Homestake Mining Company, Union Carbide, and a subsidiary of the TVA, which owns the mill.

Most people feel confident that uranium will again be developed on the location, although no predictions are being made about the future of the mill itself until the results of the study have been assessed. Among the questions this exercise was designed to answer was whether it should be renovated or relocated.

Among several experiments going forward with coal gasification is one at Rapid City, South Dakota, where the Conoco Coal Development Company's research division completed a pilot plant in 1971 and went forward with work on the CO₂ acceptor process.

Sub-bituminous coals and lignite, found in abundance in the area, can be used to fuel the plant which, according to Mr Duane McCoy, the project manager, has totally demonstrated its effective-

ness. Although problems could arise in the stepping up of the pilot plant to one that could be operated commercially, he is confident that these would be minor in character.

Like most of the others being developed elsewhere, the Rapid City plant is what gas engineers describe as being of the second generation. American pipelines and gas burning equipment are built to handle natural gas, rather than town gas. If prohibitively costly conversions are to be avoided, the future is seen to be in the manufacture of synthetic natural gas which could use existing equipment.

In addition to the basic coal fuel, gasification plants require water. But, with one eye on the environment, officials point out that a plant similar to that at Rapid City would consume only a ninth of the amount of water needed by a conventional electric power station for the same amount of basic fuel. The United States Government paid for the building of the plant, and the cost of running it is now shared by the federal authorities and the American Gas Association. The project gives the Government access to all the technical findings

Announcing the smart business decision

Boom town story of how the coal was won

you take Highway 10 it of Billings, Montana, and flow the Yellowstone river upwards for a hundred miles or so, well past Custer with the Turn-off river, to find the town of Colstrip. It is midway along the road to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, and to a casual observer it is little more than a collection of offices and wooden houses, overshadowed by a power station.

But Colstrip is a boom town. Less than 10 years ago it accommodated only 10 maintenance men and their families. Today its population is in the region of 3,000, and six or seven years hence this is likely to have doubled.

As its name implies, Colstrip owes its existence to the coal with which it is surrounded — millions of tons of high quality fuel, low in sulphur and lying in seams up to 24ft deep, just below the surface. The winning of it, to British eyes, seems ridiculously simple. Marion draglines, with bodies as big as dance halls, chew off the surface soil in 90-ton bites. Then the Bucyrus-Erie coal shovels tip into the coal, pouring 15 tons a time into Euclid coal-haulers each capable of carrying 120 tons. The haulers take the coal off to a tip near by where two men control machinery that pours it into unit trains consisting of 100 cars, each capable of carrying 100 tons.

Colstrip was born in 1923, the offspring of the old Northern Pacific Railroad which was granted the land by the Federal Government. Northern Pacific needed the coal to fuel its steam locomotives. Over the next 32 years the railroad mined 40 million tons, disturbing about 1,000 acres of rolling prairie in the process. In 1958, after the diesels came, the land was sold, with associated equipment and some houses, to the Montana Power Company, which left it fallow for 10 years.

When the market for coal turned again, in 1968, Montana Power put its wholly-owned subsidiary, the Western Energy Company, on site, and Colstrip was reborn. The known reserves of fuel at that time were 75 million tons, and the company began supplying 500,000 tons of coal a year to the 180 megawatt J. E. Corbett power station at Billings.

With a capability of 2,500,000 tons a year, Western Energy began searching for customers outside the Old West region. Within two years it was operating Colstrip at capacity, sending the fuel that the state of Montana did not need to power utilities in the mid-West.

Later, two steam generating plants, each of 350 MW, were built at Colstrip, and simultaneously Western Energy embarked on a planned development of the town around them. Design consultants lived on site to draw up a scheme which is still being carried out today.

New, single family houses began to go up. Shopping facilities were opened, and provision was made for parks in each of the six sections of town. A recreation centre was built with a gymnasium, baseball pitch, a meeting room and an Olympic-size swimming pool. Children's playgrounds were created. Two police deputies were installed, and a nurse practitioner moved in, supplementing the service provided once a week by a doctor who flies in from Miles City in his single-engine Cessna.

Until last year all the houses were company owned and rented out to workers. Now the men can choose whether to go on renting, or buy, or to purchase a plot of land on which to build. The new policy was introduced not so much at the behest of the workers but because Western Energy felt that it had controlled development well enough to ensure there would be no urban sprawl.

"We wanted to avoid another Rock Springs", said Mr West G. Boettger, the engineer who looks after reclamation for the company, and who recalls vividly the adverse publicity that the Wyoming mining town has attracted.

Although labour turnover is said to be low, Colstrip is by no means without its problems. The nearest communities of any consequence are Miles City, some 85 miles away, and Forsyth, smaller and a mere 30 miles distant. But it is a long way to go if you want to choose a suite of furniture. There is no cinema in Colstrip, either, and company executives admit that the town needs indoor facilities of this type.

However, while coal continues to find a ready market and output expands, these omissions will doubtless be rectified. When Western Energy began operations in 1968, the reserves were put at about 75 million tons. Despite all that has been taken out since then, today's total is said to be 850 million tons, spread over about 20,000 acres of land around Colstrip.

The 2,500,000 tons of coal won in 1976 compares with the present output of between 9,500,000 and 10 million tons a year. Three million tons are fed into Colstrip 1 and 2 power stations; Corbett, in Billings, continues to burn its 500,000 tons a year; and the rest goes to power utilities both in and outside Montana.

Mr Boettger has a heavy responsibility. Around Colstrip there are still signs of spoil tips left by the former railroad owners. Things are different now, with intense pressure on companies not to spoil the environment. Mr Boettger complains that the many regulations are sometimes applied too rigidly. But he concedes that this is a small price to pay when the future of the country is considered.



In 1976 the Union Pacific Railroad hauled nearly three million tons of coal from Rocky Mountain Energy's joint-venture mine at Medicine Bow, Wyoming.

Railways moving into profit

Railroads were, and will almost certainly remain, crucial to further development of the mineral-rich lands west of the northern Missouri. If rapid exploitation of the vast coalfields and other energy resources of Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota is to take place, then considerable expansion of rail activity in the area seems inevitable.

With two notable exceptions, existing rail links in the region run east to west, following the trails blazed by the prairie schooners in the 1800s. The exceptions are the Burlington Northern lines running north-west from Lincoln, Nebraska, and roughly north from Cheyenne, Wyoming, to meet at Billings and travel on to Shelby, near the Canadian border. It was Frederick Billings, president of the former Northern Pacific Railroad, who gave his name to the Montana coal-and-cow town when it was founded in 1882.

No south-north tracks exist to link the southern border of Nebraska with the 49th Parallel that separates North Dakota from Canada. Important though this may prove to be to industrialists, it has little significance where the coal trade is concerned. Existing tracks are thought to be adequate, directionally speaking, to take fuel to the main population centres outside the region. However, some people doubt whether they are in a good enough condition to take considerable extra loads.

Economists have drawn attention to reports which allege that some of the region's main-line track and spur lines are in sub-standard condition. They claim that the Federal Railroad Administration has expressed considerable concern that the expected increase in the frequency and loads of freight passing over the system may lead to further track and roadbed deterioration.

It is pointed out, too, that if demand for coal trains increases dramatically, the railroad companies might find it difficult in the short term to handle both this and the vital agricultural traffic without running into big delays.

Not unnaturally, railway officials tend to minimize these fears. They seem more concerned with possible opposition from local community leaders and about their running battle with the advocates of such different forms of transportation as coal slurry pipelines.

One of the most famous of the lines in the region is the Union Pacific Railroad's link from its headquarters town in Omaha, Nebraska, through Grand Island, North Platte, Cheyenne, Laramie and Rock Springs to the west coast. Mr Barry Combs, a UP executive, claims that the line is so well maintained, particularly in Wyoming, that it is known as "the gold-plated railroad" to the company's competitors.

"I have no fears about permanent way standards and no doubt that we shall be able to handle any foreseeable extra traffic when the time comes", he says. "We average 40 trains a day over the line in Wyoming, about three of which each carry something like 10,000 tons of coal. If you divide 40 into 24 hours, you can see there is scope for increasing the frequency."

Given the railroad's pre-eminence as a rapid transporter of vast quantities of freight, and the fact that in UP's case, certainly, much of its revenue is derived from coal traffic, Mr Combs's arguments are persuasive. In 1976, coal accounted for over 19 per cent of UP's total freight traffic, an improvement over 12 per cent on the record 1975 figure. More than 17,500,000 tons was shifted, mainly from southern Wyoming, Utah and Colorado.

With business available on this scale, and suggestions that the coal haul in UP territory will expand to about 50 million tons by 1985, it seems unlikely that the company will neglect to maintain its facilities. Indeed, over the six years from 1971 UP spent nearly \$1,000m on new locomotives, freight train cars, and other equipment and claimed that it maintained the most competitive transport system in the nation.

Many railwaymen believe that a new golden age is dawning for them. Relieved of their loss-making passenger traffic, many of the companies—particularly those in the Old West region—are profitable. This trend is likely to be maintained as long as energy conservation is demanded. The railmen claim that trains can move four times as much freight per gallon of fuel as large trucks and 125 times as much as air freighters, as well as causing much less air pollution.

None of this is meant to suggest, however, that all will be easy. The growing anxiety about environmental issues, so evident in each of the five states, will of itself create problems. Inevitably there will be opposition to attempts to increase the frequency of train journeys through small communities, on the grounds of noise and delays to other forms of traffic. Level crossings are the rule, rather than the exception, on many American systems, and the farmer and the cowman do not take kindly to ceding right of way to the iron horse, any more than the Indian once did.

"The spirit of the old frontier is still there deep down inside many of the people in this region", Mr Combs says. "That is not to say that they are sitting on the front porch with shotguns over their knees. But we have to be mindful of their feelings."

The same spirit runs through the veins of the railwaymen, as is apparent when the subject of coal slurry pipelines is raised. For two years now, Union Pacific and other railroad companies have been in the van of the fight against proposals to shift some of the Old West region's coal through pipelines. The idea is to pulverize the fuel to the consistency of sugar, suspend it in water, and then pump it over vast distances.

Such threats to the railways' traditional business are not being taken lightly. Pipeline promoters are being told that railway companies will allow the pipes to run over or under their tracks "only over our dead bodies". Geologists and environmentalists have in many cases closed ranks behind the railwaymen in opposing such schemes, and intense lobbying for and against is continuing at both state and federal level.

The outcome of this particular battle has yet to be decided. What seems certain, however, is that UP is determined to live up to its slogan—"We can handle it".

Peter Strafford on the quest for foreign investment

Farm-bred folk extolled as workers

The Old West is not a autumn. There is also another which has attracted a thought going on about the deal of foreign investment, but its officials are joint office for the five states of the region some setting out to present the advantages for an out-dorf, Amsterdam, Zurich is investor, whether he is and London are mentioned in another part of the as possibilities.

Most of the foreign investment in the region comes from Canada, North Dakota, for instance, which shares a border with Manitoba and Saskatchewan, has branches of several Canadian firms, most of them involved with agriculture.

It hopes to get more, not least by arguing that the Canadians will not have to pay such high taxes as they would at home.

Nebraska has Dorsey Laboratories and Ovaline Products, both of them owned by Sandoz, the large Swiss firm, in Lincoln, the state capital. It also has an assembly plant in Lincoln, which puts together Kawasak motorcycles from Japan, with 90 per cent of the parts made in Japan, and the completed cycles are distributed all over the United States.

This was recently announced by the state's investment commission.

As far as energy and power are concerned, officials point to the oil in Nebraska and Wyoming, and the huge deposits of coal in Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota. So no new investor need be worried, they maintain, about where his power is going to come from, since the known sources of supply in the region are large enough to last for many years.

They even set out to counter the impression of remoteness that the area gives by pointing out its road, rail and air connections, and the fact that it is ringed by large markets such as Minneapolis, Omaha, Kansas City, Denver, Salt Lake City, Portland, Seattle and Winnipeg.

Land is readily available on the vast stretches of the plains, they add, and the region as a whole is free of the urban troubles that affect industrial centres in the more thickly populated parts of the United States.

They also say that the weather is not as bad as it might seem, or at least is rarely disruptive, even if it sometimes gets very cold when the winds sweep down over the Dakotas from the Arctic.

In the long run, Omaha bankers say, the region is one of great potential importance, because of the richness of its agricultural land—something that has no parallel even in the vast expanses of the Soviet Union. At a time when food resources are becoming a critical issue all over the world, this is of great value, they consider.

One banker said that interest had already been shown by foreigners in buying agricultural land in Nebraska and elsewhere. He spoke of approaches from West Germans, Mexicans and even Saudi Arabians, who saw such land as a useful investment and thought of having it farmed by a farm management group.

A decision would have to be taken, he said, on how to ensure that the local authorities retained control and made the best use of such investment.

Dealing with the outside world is not new for the states of the Old West. They have large agricultural exports, and several trade missions have been sent to the Middle East, South America and the Far East. But they feel the time has come to make themselves even better known.

No duties to pay on export goods

One method being used by Omaha is the setting up of a foreign trade zone, where goods can be brought in from abroad and stored, packaged or processed without the payment of import duties. Duties are only paid when the finished goods are sold in the United States; if they are exported, no duties are paid.

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Reservations about justice

by Peter Strafford

The Indians in the Old West today are not exactly on the warpath but they are making more efforts than they have for a long time to assert what they feel to be their rights, and they are fired by a strong sense of having been unjustly treated in the past.

The Sioux, for instance, who live in North and South Dakota, have caused a stir by claiming jurisdiction over all the land which was given to them, or rather left to them, in the treaty they signed with the United States in 1868. Much of the land has been long since settled by non-Indians, but the Sioux argue that it should still be considered as part of their various reservations.

This in its turn has provoked a reaction by many of the non-Indians, particularly in South Dakota, which has the largest Indian population of the United

States. Whites have formed groups to fight the Indian claims in the courts, and some of them have been ready to adopt vigilante tactics at times of crisis.

Tension came to a peak during the incident in 1973 when a number of Indians, mainly members of the militant American Indian Movement (AIM), forcibly occupied the hamlet of Wounded Knee in South Dakota. Wounded Knee, on the Pine Ridge reservation, is the site of a massacre of Indians in the nineteenth century, and the move was intended to be symbolic of an Indian renaissance.

The occupation ended after a long siege, and since then AIM, which was always a minority movement, has been largely taken up with the resulting court cases. However, the incident created serious tensions between Indians and non-Indians on and around reservations at the time, and the uneasy situation has been prolonged by uncertainty over the jurisdiction claims. Generally speaking, the

conditions of life of Indians are very poor, both on the reservations and in neighbouring towns and cities. Dr Joseph Cash, an expert on Indian affairs at the University of South Dakota, thinks that the Indians are "in the worst shape of any ethnic group in America". There are high rates of unemployment, alcoholism and crime.

On the other hand, many Indians have managed to become successful members of the middle class, since there are now better schools for them than there were, and they have a chance to get a university education. There has been more federal money coming in to the reservations since the time of President Kennedy, which has helped to increase Indian self-respect but has also helped to fuel their demands for fairer treatment.

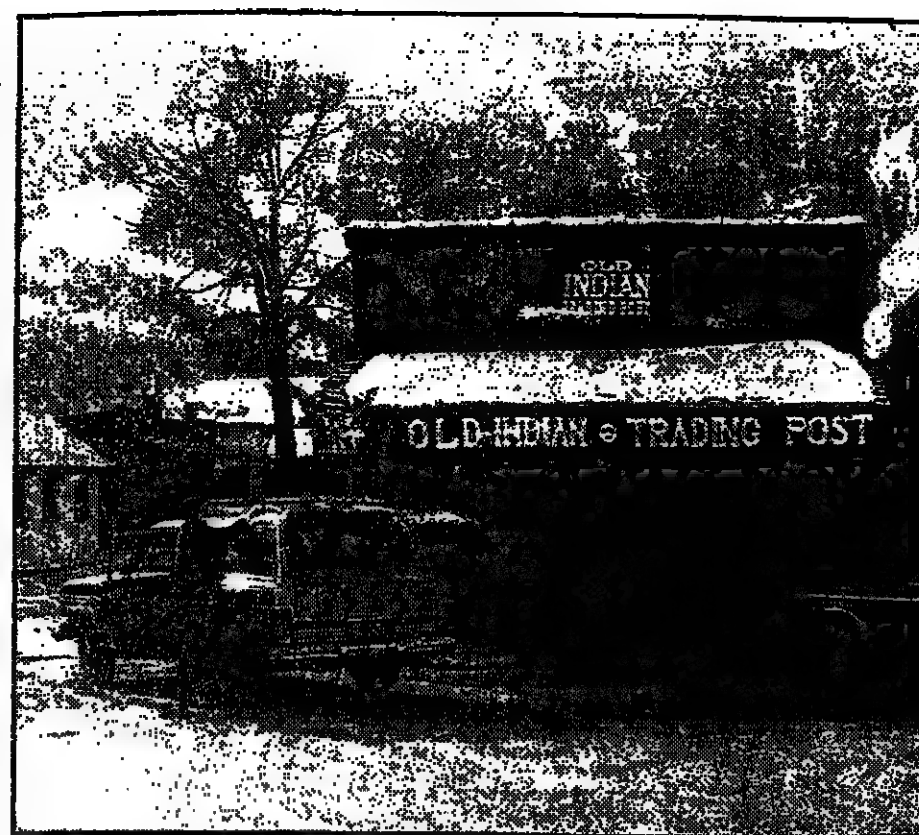
Indians claim that they encounter racial discrimination in the towns around the reservations, with difficulties, for instance, in getting housing or jobs. Non-Indians often lump all Indians together as feeble and incapable of doing solid work.

Indian reactions to the Wounded Knee incident vary. Some of them criticize AIM as a group of extremists who came from outside South Dakota and damaged the people of Pine Ridge Reservation by giving Indians a bad image and provoking the hostility of whites.

But when I went out to see Mr Pat McLaughlin, chairman of the tribal council of the Standing Rock Sioux, in Fort Yates, North Dakota, he told me that while he could not condone violence, it sometimes took violence to draw attention to a wrong. In his view, Wounded Knee had brought the plight of Indian people to the attention of the world.

Mr McLaughlin is an assured and forthright man who told me he had served with the American forces in Britain. His name, and apparently something of his manner, come from his grandfather, an Irish-American who married an Indian woman; but he told me that he felt entirely Indian.

Like other Sioux leaders, Mr McLaughlin feels that the United States has not honoured the treaty of 1868 and should be made to do so. He is now waiting to see how the Supreme Court will rule on the matter of the lands which once formed part of the Sioux reservations.



The Old Indian Trading Post at Jackson Hole, Wyoming. In 1973 members of the militant American Indian Movement (AIM) forcibly occupied the hamlet of Wounded Knee in South Dakota. Right: a member of the Sioux tribe escorts some unidentified men from the museum in Wounded Knee, where they had been taken for questioning by the AIM after being found on the Pine Ridge reservation.



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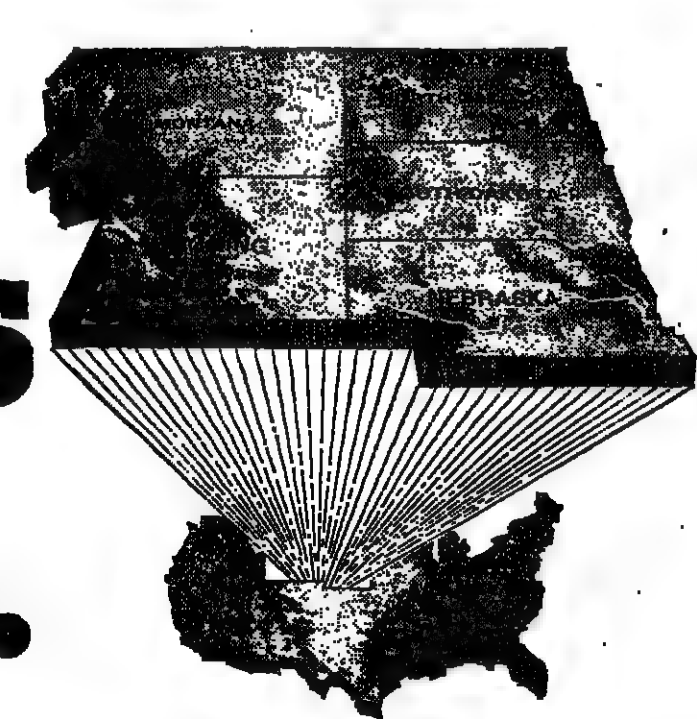
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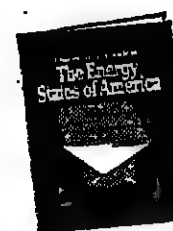
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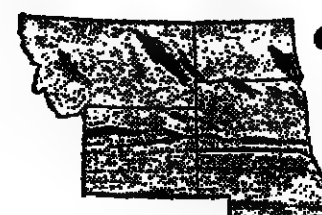
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After the sinking of the Torrey Canyon and Argo Merchant...

Oil polluting the oceans: are the tanker cowboys' days numbered?

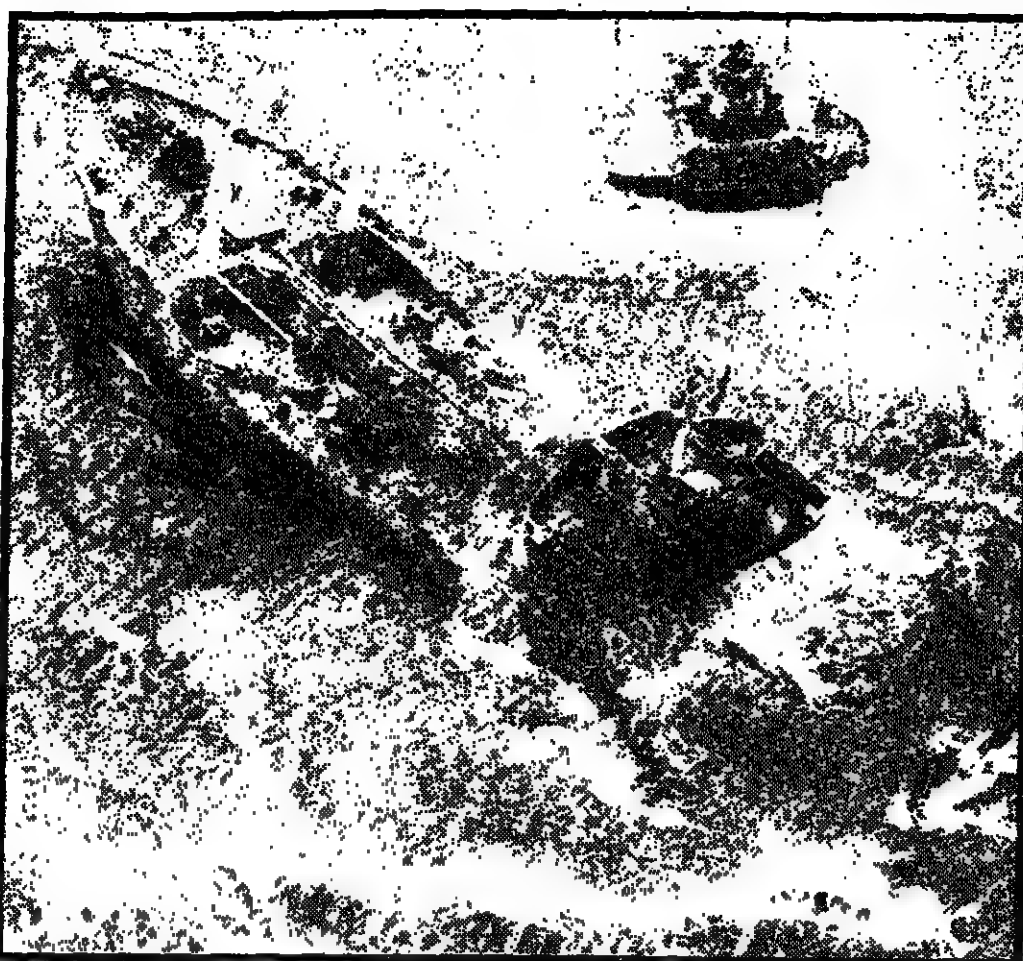
When the 28,000 ton Liberian tanker Argo Merchant went down off Nantuxet in December, spilling several thousands tons of oil into a prime American fishing ground, she assured herself a lasting place in shipping history.

Just 10 years ago today the Torrey Canyon besmirched the sea off Cornwall and generated a wave of international regulatory action to make the seas safer from this kind of accident and pollution. By demonstrating the inadequacy of such action the Argo Merchant has made certain a new wave of ever stronger measures from an increasing environment-conscious world.

It is no coincidence that the land where the environmental voice is currently loudest should have been the scene of this and several other tanker mishaps in recent months. The United States is surrounded by a shallow continental shelf, though oil to feed her gargantuan maw must be brought in ships of under 100,000 tons, of which few have been built in a decade when 250,000-tonners have ruled the carriage of crude oil. The Argo Merchant was more than 20 years old and so was the Grand Zenith, missing at about the same time in the north Atlantic. The San Simeon, exploding in Los Angeles harbour the same week with nine deaths, was nearly 20 years old, and the Olympic Games, gushing oil in the Delaware River was more than 10.

American public opinion is in full cry, demanding rigorous measures to protect the environment, and politicians are leading a receptive ear. Double skinned ships, double bottoms, segregated tanks, advanced navigation systems, wider compulsory pilotage, and even reservation of the trade to United States flagships that can be effectively controlled, are all being canvassed. Pressure will certainly not diminish when all the facts about the Argo Merchant are known. Not only is she 10 miles off course at the time of the accident, with inoperative navigational equipment, but she also had a horrific record of mechanical defects, crew troubles, and spills, including one in Boston a year earlier.

The fact that a ship like this could still be involved in such an accident 10 years after



The Argo Merchant's death throes: a place in shipping history.

Torrey Canyon points the way to where future action must lie. In that decade the United Nations maritime arm, the London-based Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), has passed a series of measures to reduce both operational pollution from tank washing and so on, which is reckoned to account for about 80 per cent of it, and accidents which account for the rest.

In 1969, restrictions on discharging oil into the sea were tightened, and tightened again in 1973 to prohibit it from entire sea areas like the Baltic and Mediterranean. In 1971 tank sizes were limited to restrict spills from future ships, and in 1973 segregated ballast tanks made mandatory for new ships together with greater internal subdivision to aid buoyancy and lessen leakage from stricken vessels. In 1968

radio was made compulsory, and in 1972 new collision regulations were brought in. Traffic separation, as in the Dover Strait, was actively promoted, and more than 100 schemes are now in force.

All very admirable, but 150 world states, only 100 are members of IMCO, and of these only 20 to 30 may be needed to bring a marine convention into force.

IMCO is painfully aware of its inadequacy. "From now on the emphasis must be on implementation," says its secretary general, Mr Chandrika Prasad. "That is largely a matter for sovereign governments, but IMCO is taking a great deal of interest."

Cyprus, which had the doubtful honour of sharing with Greece, Panama and Liberia three-quarters of world ship losses last year from only a third of world tonnage, is said by a visiting IMCO expert to be keen to improve its monitoring systems.

This still leaves the responsibility with flag governments, however, and IMCO achieved a breakthrough in January with agreement among member states to a scheme encouraging seafarers and others to report defects in foreign ports, where the host government can then inspect a ship and either report it to its flag government (and IMCO) or even detain it until defects are rectified. The scheme depends on people having the courage to report, though, and again its operation is limited to contracting countries. Finally, IMCO is working on a new convention setting

standards for crew training and watch keeping. This clearly will be valuable, but may take years.

"Environmentalists tend to see the answer in expensive gimmicks," says Mr Ralph Mayborne, head of BP tanker operations. And the risk is that governments will respond with "political gimmicks."

Without denying the need for steady improvement in ship design and equipment, Mr Mayborne thinks it a complete fallacy that to give a sub-standard crew a high technology makes them more like a standard crew. The more sophisticated the equipment, the better trained crews need to be. Nor does he see the answer in putting age limits on ships.

A 15-year analysis of its own operations carried out by BP for the government disclosed 286 accidents in 1,000 ship years, practically all so minor as to involve no perceptible cost. In the entire period, BP's 100 ship fleet sustained only one major accident—a collision with a fishing boat, which caused a small fire and a minor oil spill.

The problem lies, Mr Mayborne and everyone else seem to agree, with sub-standard crews, who may or may not fly flags of convenience, and who make a living out of what is often a sub-standard operation from one end to the other: ships, crews, maintenance, and management.

Up to now the charterers—mainly the big oil companies who are themselves big tanker owners—have had little idea which of the ships offering themselves for voyage charter were accident prone, but that is changing fast. The oil companies do not like to say so much about it because, as Mr Mayborne comments, they cannot be seen to be gangling up on owners, especially in the light of United States anti-trust laws. But there is little doubt that black-lists are rapidly being compiled and compared, and that charterers, unions, governments and IMCO all on their track, it looks as if the days of the sub-standard shipowner are drawing to a close. None too soon.

Michael Bailey
Shipping Correspondent

Bernard Levin

An open and shut case for being Jewish

I know it is very wrong of me, and as soon as I can stop laughing long enough I plan to feel thoroughly ashamed of myself, but for the moment you will just have to bear with me; these are dark days, and a man who has added so notably to the public stock of harmless pleasure as has Mr Mike Robertson, of Cornwall, must be suitably hymned in a thousand words or so before anything else is allowed to happen.

Mr Robertson, of whom I read in the Daily Express, is the owner of a group of department stores in the West Country. He likes to sell his goods to customers who wish to buy them (in itself an attitude sufficiently remarkable in this country to warrant a round of applause), and what is more he wishes to sell them whenever the customers wish to buy them (further applause, accompanied by foot-stamping), and what is more still, if the customers want to buy on Sunday, on Sundays is when he is willing to sell (tumultuous cheers, followed by community singing and fireworks).

At this point in his admirable philosophy, however, he comes up against the spavined fetters which actually run this country, and whose view of the matter is the contrary of his: they believe that if A wants to sell something to B which B wishes to buy, the price being agreed, someone should be sent to stop the transaction taking place, and if the malefactor they will not stop when exhorted they should be compelled to stop by Act of Parliament.

In this case the weapon consists of the Shops Acts, which not only provide, as it is very proper they should, safeguards against employees being obliged against their will to work for unreasonably long hours of time or to be behind their counters, involuntarily, on normal days of rest, but compel shopkeepers to shut on certain days or at certain times even if they are themselves, or if only induced by monetary incentives, are perfectly willing to labour.

Mr Robertson fears that the local council is going to order him (as it seems it has power to do) to cease trading on Sundays. He says that Bumble is being pressed to take this action by a combination of the Lord's Day Observance Society and the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers. (I wouldn't be at all surprised.) But the good Mr Robertson is not to be defeated easily, come all the bluesoes and brothers between Falmouth and Honkon, and he has thought of the jolliest wheeze seen in those

parts, or any other parts, for some time: having discovered that the Shops Acts permit Sunday opening to those whose religion requires them not to work on Saturday, most familiar of these groups being the Jews, he has decided to become a Jew himself, and is busy persuading his staff to volunteer for mass conversion at the same time. Entering into the spirit of his own proposal, he has taken to answering the Jews with the words "Chief Rabbi here", and has already equipped his shop-assistants with skull-caps.

Now, I take it, you can see both why I am doubled up and why I shall have to put on a great show of being shocked as soon as I get my breath back. But until then, I want to salute Mr Robertson—there is really no other word for it—chutzpah, and to wish him every success in his endeavour.

I know of no healthier confusion of groups, pressures and motives than the one that has produced this country's pattern of trading and licensing hours. It is the work of wowers of every description; of lazy and incompetent shopkeepers and businessmen, afraid of competition from the hard-working and efficient; of trades union officials activated by nothing more admirable than the spirit which causes them to snarl at the numbers of manufacturing trades to impose fines upon those of their mates who work harder than the least hard-working; of local government officials who yearn to tell somebody, however inoffensive, that he is something, however reasonable of politicians willing to scramble for votes in any murky corner where they may be found; of busybodies, snoopers, meddlers, jacks-in-office, prigs, propitiators, Pecksnuffs, pompous asses, fools, failures, functionaries and fainthearts.

These various weavils have conspired over the years to make the lives of the people of this country less easy and agreeable than they might be, and those of its traders less profitable and happy than they would be with malice aforethought. Enter Mr Robertson of Cornwall, a suspiciously new-looking phylarion bound upon his forehead, a mezzah in his buttonhole, fragments of gefilte fish in his moustache and a look in his eye as of one who, should the waters of Babylon, would sit down and weep at the slightest provocation. I do not suppose that Mr Robertson will succeed in his method of preventing the wowers and brothers from

shutting his shops; apart from anything else, I believe that the Jews are very particular about whom they receive into their faith, the goyim having to go through a prolonged course of instruction before being admitted. (And even if Mr Robertson passes all the tests, I believe I am right in saying that circumcision in adult life can be very painful.) So I imagine that he will remain un-Jewish, which may well be the wisest course: if the Cornish Furry Dance should get out of hand one year and turn into a pogrom, he will be glad that the mob, intent upon sacking the Lostwithiel synagogue, will not find him at prayer inside it.

On the other hand, he may find a certain satisfaction—in deed, he may even have been seeking it—in the knowledge that he has drawn some attention (and I have been happy to draw some more today) to a state of affairs in which, honest trader, wishing to sell his wares to an eager customer, must first learn to say *sholem aleichem* as though he meant it before being allowed to do so on a Sunday.

Of course (I think I am just about ready for the shock and horror bit), I do not want to suggest that the attitude of Britain's laws to Sunday is based on anything but the profoundest Christian feelings in those who enact and uphold them: for I am sure they all remember Christ's striking words: "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing, at any rate on weekdays, very properly restricted by the Shops Act 1950 as amended by subsequent legislation, particularly the Shops (Early Closing Days) Act 1965, always bearing in mind the decision in the case of *Liford Corporation v. Betts*, *Queen's Bench*." All the same, there are more ways of killing a cat than by choking it with cream, and one of them is laughing it to death. I hope the municipal authorities who have the responsibility of deciding whether Mr Robertson may or may not open his shops to his customers on Sundays will stay their hands even if he does not succeed in changing his name to Rabinowitz and his religion to that of Rabinowitz's forefathers. They do make him shut his shops, in the name of the finger of scorn at them, and to buy all the more on the other six days of the week from this admirable, ingenious and, above all, enterprising spirit.

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The power of the EEC, by Mr Malcolm Fraser

Canberra
Mr Malcolm Fraser, Australia's Prime Minister since the constitutional crisis of November, 1975, ended the brief but eventual Whitlam era, remains something of an enigma. Outside his own political circle, it is not easy to find people who regard him as an appealing figure. His apparent lack of warmth, his privileged background—Melbourne Grammar, Oxford University, 8,000 rich acres in Victoria, grandson of one of the first federal senators, Sir Simon Fraser, who came from Nova Scotia—these factors, added to the events preceding his electoral victory, have conspired to produce a good deal of dull hostility.

The economic situation, largely inherited by him, some think, aggravated by his policies, has not helped.

Yet those close to him in the Liberal Party admire his determination—seen by opponents as arrogance or ruthlessness—and insist that he is less reactionary than his reputation allows.

Mr Fraser, who is 46, was weary but quite affable when he received me at his office.

He soon provided evidence for the view that he is less conservative than his reputation, making it clear that he did not accept the views of his New Zealand counterpart, Mr Muldoon, about sporting contracts with South Africa.

It was quite natural, he said, for people to feel strongly when a government (ie, South Africa) said that some people could not be in sporting teams because their colour or race is different. "If in the face of this kind of approach, others (ie, Mr Muldoon) try to say this is not an issue for governments, that is just not sustainable any more."

"It would be sad if the Commonwealth Heads of Government got sidetracked from discussing this issue for many hours, as they could be if people try to sustain a view which might have been sustainable in the 1950s, but which is not sustainable in 1977."

The matter would be discussed in Canberra with other

Commonwealth leaders from the Pacific and South-East Asian regions before the conference.

He is a stronger believer in the value of the Commonwealth than many of his predecessors, rejecting the view that, because it has changed greatly, it has become an anachronism. He sees it as a potentially friendly microcosm of the United Nations, with all the problems of rich and poor nations, without the tensions arising from the rivalry of the super-powers, and as a bridge between regional groups.

"It is the only organisation where heads of government from more than 30 countries are prepared to set aside up to two weeks to discuss these problems. . . . It needs to be recognized that it provides an opportunity, a forum for success which may not be available anywhere else, and that people ought to work at it," he said.

Mr Fraser is also visiting Brussels. Coming to Australia, one is reminded afresh just how powerful a trading block the EEC looks to those outside.

side.

"In the final resort, Australia either supported or did not oppose Britain's entry into the EEC. I am on record in Parliament as having supported it on political grounds, recognizing the need for a certain degree of political unity among European countries."

Last May Mr Fraser caused a slight flutter by saying: "We eagerly await the plain evidence of British influence in the EEC which was so emphatically promised to us as a great contribution to a better and freer world." He is now a bit more cautious, emphasizing that neither this, nor the anticipated strengthening of Britain, could be expected to occur quickly.

The EEC, he pointed out, now represents "probably the most technologically advanced, the most sophisticated, and suppose taken together the wealthiest grouping of nations that the world has ever seen."

"We would hope that its internal problems can be so resolved that it can and will

play the larger role in world affairs that Australia would hope for, and that Britain implied in the months and years before her membership."

While conceding that Australia has been deficient in its approach to the EEC, Mr Fraser saw a basic difference between Australia's high tariffs on manufactured imports, and the "impenetrable wall" of agricultural protectionism. He hoped that when the EEC's ban on beef imports was lifted, they do not at some stage in the future decide to pull down the blind again.

"Great trading nations have got to understand that if there is to be a stability in the political relationship between countries, there needs also to be stability in the trading relationship," a message lost on some of Australia's trade unionists, whose strikes in export sectors like mining have troubled relations with the nation's major trading partner, Japan.

As for the events which culminated in his crushing election victory in December 1975, Mr Fraser points out that the

crux of the matter was not the Senate's blocking of the money supply or the Governor-General Sir John Kerr's dismissal of Mr Whitlam. It was that Mr Whitlam had decided to continue governing without the support of a majority in the House of Representatives, and even to "raid" the trading banks for finance.

"If the Government of the United Kingdom sought to govern once Parliament, or the Commons, had cut off its supply of money, people would think it, in the politest terms, rather odd, and in the most extravagant terms, revolutionary. This is what the then government sought to do."

He thought the constitutional monarchy has been a source of continuity and stability for Australia. If one element were taken out of the system, it would not be easy to know how to fill the void with something better.

"It is a sad day when people feel that ancient traditions have to be torn up and destroyed merely because they are old."

Roger Berthoud

The Times Diary

This is the kind of thing I shall miss

published soon. Mausell, though, said he was not as bothered about that as about the Think Tank's investigation into Britain's activities overseas, which embraces external broadcasting.

I put it to him that as far back as I could recall there had been periodic reviews of our overseas commitments, which usually came to the conclusion that the BBC External Services and the British Council ought to be cut back severely, but nothing ever happened as a result. The Duncan Report of the late 1960s is one I remember specially.

"I suppose you're right," he admitted. "We saw that one off. No doubt we shall see this one off, too."

I was able to introduce him to another BBC person, Esther Rantzen of television. She told him that she used to work for the External Services in Bush House, their headquarters. "I was once bitten by a Brazilian in the lift," she revealed. "A slow lift?" I hazarded. "A fast Brazilian," she replied. Then I came across Tom McNally, from the Prime Minister's Office, talking to Peter Shore, Environment Secretary, about one Labour parliamentary candidate for Vauxhall, for which McNally is a contender, though with little chance of success. It was he who raised the storm over the request by the constituency's General Manage-

ment Committee that candidates should sign a pledge to offer themselves for election whenever the GMC thought fit. Shore prudently left as soon as I joined the group, but McNally explained to me his view that the request to sign such a pledge was against party rules, which was why he had acted. As a member of Vauxhall Labour Party, I thought it best to offer no opinion. I was one of the last to leave the ambassador's house, which shows how much I enjoyed myself.

Feverish

Jubilee fever struck twice in London yesterday when there were press previews for two exhibitions celebrating the Queen's 25 years on the throne.



Queen Victoria's right hand.

The Royal Academy is marking the event with a small collection of pictures and objects relating to Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. It calls its exhibition *This Brilliant Year*. For the most part, it is a

collection of indifferent Victorians, but there are a few curiosities. A sculpture of the Queen's right hand and wrist shows that, even in 1843, she was a plump side. There will no doubt be those who will enjoy gazing at the original sailor suit worn by Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, in the portrait by Winterhalter of 1846.

The best part of the exhibition is the room devoted to pictures shown in the Manchester Royal Jubilee Exhibition of 1877. This demonstrates well how the Victorians revelled in scenes of misery and pathos.

A picture called "Hard Times" shows a family of the labouring class suffering in a lane at Bushey, Herts. There is, too, plenty of misery in "The Sick Call", painted by a man who died of consumption the year after it was exhibited. In other pictures, a mother and her baby battle through a blizzard; a husband and wife stare balefully at each other, locked in a marriage of convenience; and two nuns bury somebody.

Splendidly morose stuff, but a long way from jubilee jubilation. The National Portrait Gallery caught the mood better at the press view of their exhibition of 130 years of royal photographs. Happy and Glorious.

This also had a large picture of Queen Victoria glowering over the entrance lobby, but once inside we were handed lapel buttons and jubilee mugs brimful of champagne. (Being a public funded gallery, it can afford such excess.) The exhibition is simply what it says it is. The early photographs are more interesting, the later ones more proficient. They show that royals are just like the rest of us, except that they wear funnier hats.

The trouble with him is that he's a cannabis borey



Patience

Have you ever seen a nightingale? Most of us have heard one, but the nightingale is as shy as they come, and he is the very devil to photograph. Especially standing up to his knees in water, which is not his usual habitat, being as he is a creature of the scrub.

Michael Wilkes, an inspector with the Midlands Electricity Board, waited for five years to take a picture of a nightingale. He was rewarded one hot day last summer, after an eight-hour wait in his hide near Studley in Worcestershire, which claims to be England's smallest village. His effort won him £100 yesterday in a picture competition organized by the magazine *British Birds* in which he competed with some of our leading

professional wildlife photographers. The judges said that it was one of the first pictures of a nightingale they had ever seen, certainly the first of the bird in water. Sir Peter Scott, who presented Wilkes with his prize, said Wilkes had won because all the judges said they wished they had taken the picture. You can see the picture on page 21.

Wrong

The appointment of Kingman Brewster as United States ambassador to London will come as no surprise to readers of this column. In January, reported on the advice of Fred Emery in Washington, that Brewster "seems a more likely choice than others whose names have been bandied about."

The unfortunate reader of the *Daily Mail*, however, might be a little bewildered. Last Monday night the *Daily Mail* reported, with no trace of doubt, that Georgia lawyer Philip Alston 65, has the post sewn up. For good measure, the report went on: "He has direct contact with the oval office and will be a powerful ambassador."

The *Daily Mail* is a good source of information, for those who need it, on the private lives of the insignificant. It does not dabble in matters it does not understand.

There are few things more pleasing than to be honoured by one's peers, but in some fields honour takes strange forms. To mark the 85th birthday of Dr Cecil Hore, a distinguished protozoologist, the name *Typhlozoa* has been given to a species of parasites isolated from Brazilian crocodiles.

PHS

مكنا من الناحية



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POSITIVE DISCRIMINATION

any society that deliberately sets itself to secure fair treatment for minority communities in its midst faces a delicate question of principle. Is fairness to be gained by absolute equality of provision? Or are special measures required to counteract the particular disadvantages from which the minorities suffer? The story of race relations legislation in this country accords priority to the first principle in dealing with discrimination. In road terms the intention has been to prevent discrimination by one person against another on grounds of race or origin. So great was the determination to secure equality of treatment that the last legislation was so flexible as to require the Race Relations Board to become involved in cases where the infringement of the Act was only technical. Hence the fiasco of the Scots porridge episode.

Last year's Race Relations Act provided for greater flexibility, largely but not solely because it does not require the enforcing agency to investigate every complaint of discrimination in the fields covered by legislation. It is also been recognized both in that and in the 1968 Act that there are some jobs for which it is a necessary qualification to be of a particular nationality or racial group. But these are essentially exceptions to a general principle. The question is more complex when it comes to administrative actions designed to remove or reduce the disadvantages suffered by minority communities.

A report on local authority services published on Wednesday by the Community Relations Commission points out that there are three ways in which they can respond to this problem.

Priority can be given to helping the disadvantaged in general, which will be a means of assisting ethnic minorities more than proportionately because of the greater extent to which they suffer from most forms of disadvantage. Or services can be presented in such a way as to take account of the cultural variations in the population. Or special services can be provided to cater for the distinct needs of ethnic minorities.

So far as possible, the first of these approaches is to be preferred. It is the principle on which the Urban Programme and other area priority policies are based—which have much more to be said for them in concept than one might suppose from the administrative mess they have become. The intention is to spend public money on people and neighbourhoods according to their different categories of need. The more the categories are based on measurable indices, the more objective the system becomes, the fairer it seems, and the less likely it is to arouse the resentment of those in the host community who do not benefit. There is therefore less danger of fanning the flames of discrimination at the same time as reducing the other disabilities from which immigrants suffer.

But it is not enough simply to apply this principle. There are different communities in this country, and local authority and other services have to take this fact into account if they are to respond to human need as sensitively as they should. At the simplest level this is a matter of presentation. Information of all kinds advertising services has to be given in the languages of the minorities, and interpreters

have to be employed, if immigrants are to benefit from these services as much as other members of the population. That is not preferential treatment in any reasonable sense.

But immigrants do have different needs simply because they come from different cultural backgrounds. The most obvious is for English language teaching, a need that is now met reasonably well in the schools. But there is more to it than that. The CRC report mentions instances where applications for aid for elderly Asians were rejected because the projects concerned for housing in one case, a day centre in another, did not provide for integration. To insist on the integration of old people of different national backgrounds, speaking different languages, and with a taste for different food, is a bureaucratic absurdity.

But in responding as sensitively as possible to these human needs it is essential not to discriminate against members of the host community. That would be precisely the effect of one suggestion in the report: that immigrant children should have priority for nursery school places. The parents of white children would then feel that they were being placed at a disadvantage, which they would reasonably regard as unfair. That would be the worst way to foster good relations between them. White people have their rights and human needs as well. If there are not taken into account then racial animosity and discrimination will flourish whatever the law may say. Immigrants need special help, but they will suffer in the long run if it is given in ways that make white people feel that they in turn are being deprived.

SINGAPORE'S DENIAL OF DISSENT

What is one to make of a government that in the name of fending off a communist threat uses methods that are precisely those common to most communist governments? Mr Lee Kuan Yew, who is very quick with his rebuttal of any criticism of his government in Singapore, would certainly dismiss this parallel drawn by a western newspaper. Yet such is the impression given following the latest detentions under the Internal Security Act of Mr G. Raman, a lawyer, Mr Arun Senkuttuvan, a local correspondent of the *Financial Times* and *The Economist*, and Mr Ho Woon Ping who was writing for the *Hongkong Far Eastern Economic Review*.

The case against the first two was set out in broadcast and televised statements made by Mr Raman and Mr Senkuttuvan, both of them hollow-sounding recitals with a dictated air—by whatever means they were extracted. Thus Mr Senkuttuvan was made to say: "I deliberately made use of my position as a writer to portray the Singapore Government as undemocratic, totalitarian, autocratic and oppressive. . . . My anti-government writings have helped the communist cause as I intended." Mr Raman admits the justification for detention without trial and claims of Singapore that there are already checks built within our legal system providing for any rectification of

abuses by the executive of these provisions.

Investigations made over many years by Amnesty International would not support this. Nor could anybody be convinced by such statements. A strain of morbid suspicion seems particularly to be aroused by subversion from abroad. Thus Mr Senkuttuvan was associated "with the Euro-communist plot to portray the People's Action Party as Fascist and get it expelled from power." It was Mr Lee himself, it may be recalled, who withdrew from the Socialist International last year when it took up the case of Singapore's detainees on the ground of human rights.

The press in particular is under a tight rein. The treatment of the *Singapore Herald*, a newspaper that showed signs of independence six years ago, showed how little communist affiliations had to do with it. Lately suspicion has fallen on any journalist who has acquired information which the Government deems to be damaging. There could be no possible communist element in the charges now made against the correspondent of the *Far Eastern Economic Review* over a tape recording made by the editor of that journal after an interview he had had with the Singapore Prime Minister.

As well as on the press there are pressures on many figures in public life, in commerce, the

professions, and education, to emulate criticism and ensure a tame conformity. Such resorts go far beyond any excuse on grounds of racial tension or cultural conflict. That these are problems in Singapore should be acknowledged. The task of bringing to birth a community consciousness in this hybrid society has occupied Mr Lee for many years. He is right also to fear a Chinese cultural exclusiveness that can easily be drawn into support of the largely Chinese guerrillas still operating in Malaya. But that threat is surely much less now than it seemed fifteen years ago.

What Mr Lee seems unwilling to rely on is the positive force of democracy. At each election his own party has been handsomely returned. Last December the PAP won all sixty-nine seats. That can be taken as a mark of approval for efficient government and successful economic growth; also, perhaps as assent by a largely Chinese electorate to a one-party government with an authoritarian flavour. Does it not provide at the same time security enough to end the intolerance? Mr Rajaratnam, the Foreign Minister, applauded the election result as "a mandate to fight the communists and pro-communists." That label "pro-communist" attaches to a very slippery slope and Singapore has gone a long way down it and a long way from political freedom in the process.

A BLAZE OF CRICKET

Who would care to call the odds against the two hundred and twenty-fifth Test match between England and Australia, which finished on March 17, 1977, at Melbourne being won by Australia by 46 runs exactly the same margin as that by which they won the first Test match, which finished on that ground on March 17, 1877? It adds a tenuous touch to a respondent's generosity of the Australian cricket Board in bringing to Melbourne some two hundred years of earlier series; five days of glorious weather; the respite on the last day of the week; and above all the play. The wheel of fortune turned throughout the game. And if England's chance of victory had been written right down as they penned their second innings 462 runs behind, that opinion had been sharply revised as the often unblemished English batsmen lifted their score above 400 and made the highest fourth innings total any between Australia and England. Of the bowling of Lillee at Melbourne crowd roared

their approval, and no decibel was undeserved. He was bowling, Colin Cowdrey reports faster at the end than at the beginning. And it was particularly happy that two of the finest innings were played by two of the youngest players—Hookes, in his first Test match after a brief early career of Bradmanesque brilliance, pasting five consecutive balls from the English captain to the boundary, and Randall, in his first Test match against Australia, leading the counterattack.

There is a special blend of asperity and warmth colouring the long rivalry in cricket between Australia and England. Melbourne brings it out, as it probably did a hundred years ago. The first touring side from England had come out in 1861 (sponsored—yes, in those days too cricket had its sponsors—by Messrs Spiers and Pond, who are reported to have cleared £11,000 by their enterprise), so any deference the colonials might have been disposed to feel and any sense that an honour was being done them had had time to be displaced by a

more characteristic frame of mind. And when Bannerman, having played the first ball bowled between representative sides of the two countries, went on to make 165 and Gregory's team went on to win the match, no feelings of inferiority could have persisted. Mind you, the England team was one of professionals only and therefore did not contain several of the best English cricketers of the time, notably W. G. But then the Australian eleven did not have Spofforth, an omission repaired in the return match a fortnight later.

The match that this week recalled that historic encounter bodes well for the Australian tour of England this summer (in spite of the sad absence from the touring side of Lillee) and for the Royal Jubilee Test match to be played at Lord's in June. It bodes well too for the future of first-class cricket, now beginning to emerge from its long and financial troubles, and the disorientation inflicted on it by changed patterns of social life.

hodesian agreement

on Mr Colin Legum

Jerome Caminada (March 11) is wrong when he says that the five days agreed with Mr Ian Smith in Pretoria in September, 1976, represented "a concrete agreement". In view of the considerable misunderstanding about the so-called Kissinger-Smith "package deal" it is worth recording the actual nature of that agreement.

At different times in recent months, Dr Kissinger, Mr Smith and South African Prime Minister, Vorster, have all given similar reasons about what had happened at the Pretoria meeting on September 19, 1976. The common point in their statements is that Dr Kissinger planned that the five points were subject to acceptance by the African leaders with whom he was

negotiating at the same time. About this there is no disagreement.

The disagreement arises over what happened after Dr Kissinger had seen Presidents Kaunda and Nyerere, and turned around a telegram sent to Mr Smith from Dar es Salaam on September 21. Mr Smith claims that this telegram conveyed the message that the agreement was acceptable to the African leaders, and he therefore decided to go ahead to make his acceptance speech a few days later. Dr Kissinger has explained that his message conveyed his "best judgment", which was that the agreement would be acceptable. A New York Times journalist, who saw the actual text of the telegram, described it as "ambiguous". So the real nature of the telegram sent by Dr Kissinger from Dar es Salaam on September 21. Certainly, there are

no grounds whatever to support the view that "a concrete agreement" was reached at Pretoria. This has become part of the pro-Smith and anti-Kissinger mythology.

And Presidents Nyerere and Kaunda both thanked Kissinger for having got Smith to agree to the principle of majority rule within two years, they explained to him that their final decision would be conveyed to him only after a full meeting of the Front-Line Presidents. That meeting refused to accept the Pretoria agreement as it stood. Kissinger's "best judgment" was that they would accept; but his gamble on this happening was proved wrong.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN LEGUM,
15 Denbigh Gardens,
Richmond,
Surrey.

Declining morale in the workplace

From the Director-General of the Institute of Directors

Sir, Professor Elliot Jacques in his letter (March 15) underlines as Britain's urgent social priorities the need for institutions to allow people to participate in the workplace and to be assured of just reward for their creativity and responsibility.

It is certainly true that everybody wants to be assured of just reward for his contribution to the whole. But what about this worthy sounding, but unclear, notion of participation? Is it really true that what the Professor means by "participation" is responsible for ebbing morale in the workplace?

I am doubtful; doubtful at any rate that that is a fundamental reason. It would take more space than you are able to allow me, Sir, to discuss the reasons for the elements contributing to the raising of the morale of the individual in his workplace. But there is one aspect which is increasingly clear, as is witnessed by the performance of the British Leyland in its past two troubled years. The recent history of man is dominated by the growth in the scale of cooperative activity: bigger armies, bigger states and bigger and bigger business enterprises. Where the individual can no longer see the boundary of the territory he inhabits, he communicates with all who work within it, then he feels lost. When that enterprise itself loses its way, his sense of insecurity can in turn overwhelm the individual.

It is at such times that the nation becomes perilously subject to what I call "flockthink", the sheep-like and enthusiastic adoption of half-baked remedies which fleetingly catch the fancy. Such a panacea is the set of suggestions put up by the Bullock Committee, and rightly criticized by Professor Jacques. You cannot impose good business management by law. Would that you could.

page in yesterday's issue (March 16).

One thing that management, private or state, cannot honestly do is claim to offer moral security of employment without compromising its professionalism. Professionalism means serving the customers' changing tastes and wants. But that does not mean in practice that you are not safe in your job. The challenge to the community is to manage the economy so as to provide the underlying security of full employment, while at the same time the necessity of changing jobs to get the right people into the right jobs.

It will be when we are all sure we have good business leadership and good communications, and the consequent understanding and trust that we will find morale rising and industrial unrest diminishing.

Yours faithfully,
JAN HILDRETH, Director-General,
Institute of Directors,
10 Belgrave Square, SW1.

From the Bishop of Chester

Sir, Could it be that Mr Fraser and his co-workers are in fact modern movers in a worthy cause? The almost universal view is that they are causing the immediate dislocation of the car industry, with consequent unemployment to their comrades and damage to the national economy. In the short-term this is true. In the long term it is doubtful. One of the major causes of our present industrial, managerial and professional malaise is the constant erosion of differentials caused by large scale negotiations on behalf of the mass of union membership. Almost 40 years ago—in 1940 to be exact—fully qualified and experienced tool fitters were amazed to see the dilapidated and unskilled labour of the wartime engineering plants receiving as much, and sometimes more, than themselves. None of us, especially large scale unions, seems to have learnt any lesson.

Even those who subscribe to a communistic view of society must admit that at our present stage of social evolution specialists' skills must be rewarded in terms of additional money if the economic fabric is to be maintained. Although the Paris commune required every person to be paid the same, the euphoric idealism of the Russian party congress of 1917 set seq insisted that all workers should have a basic wage but that specialist skills ought to be additionally rewarded.

It will indeed be a strange commentary on society if men and women of professional and managerial status secure the answer to their complaints through the steadfastness of Mr Fraser and his comrades.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
VICTOR CESTR,
Bishop of Chester,
Chester.

Churches and Marxism

From Mrs Katharine Thwaites

Sir, Before we start helping to put a human face on Marxism as your Religious Affairs Correspondent suggests (March 14) perhaps it would be wise to make sure that it has a human heart.

The opposition between Christianity and Marxism does not only arise from Marx's rejection of religious belief, it also comes from the Christian rejection of materialist philosophy. Nor is the difference between the two systems merely a matter of emphasis. Marxism proposes the ideal society as being based on the material; it leaves out that little matter of eternal life. It also holds that progress is made by means of revolutionary change in which each stage is replaced by its negation or contradiction; this negation is essentially incompatible with the manifestation of Christianity as a development which is essentially conservative of its roots. Moreover, Marxism is based on a denial of the right of private ownership

whereas the practice of Christianity is dependent on that right—in order to give, first I must have.

In a free society it is not necessary to vote for communism. We are all at liberty to share our possessions in such a community if we wish, the fact that so few choose to do so should quench our surprise at the degree of suppression necessary to maintain a system which seeks to impose it. No doubt voluntary communism is the most perfect way of life, but presumably it will become an encouraging prospect only when it is to be perfect and one supposes that it will be quite some time before that happens.

Meanwhile, surely, Christians should try to preserve and improve those forms of society in which the knowledge and pursuit of perfection is still possible, and while it is true that the churches neglect Marxism at their peril, their task is to unmask evil not to help put a good face on it.

Yours faithfully,
KATHARINE THWAITES,
The Old House,
Westfield College, Hampstead.

Battered babies

From Dr A. White Franklin

Sir, Dr Fawcett-Corbett (March 14) recommends the prescription of a Care Order for all children when the question of abuse comes before the courts. Would he, I wonder, regard as fit to continue in practice a doctor who always recommends the same medicine for everyone who consults him about a headache? Each patient surely deserves individual consideration. There cannot be a rule of thumb method for abusing parents, and alas! the care order which the doctor prescribes from the bench is not a treatment. The order allows the removal of the child from the immediate danger of physical assault by its parents, but what matters also to the child is into whose

hands day-by-day care passes. This, for the child, is the treatment.

As to "the blandishments of counsel", which the doctor must withhold in other contexts, can child abuse be seen as an integral part of the adversary system. Counsel may truly win a case and lose a baby's life. It is for this reason mainly that some of us—though I have to say not our legal members—believe that these cases should join the cases of other kinds of breakdown of family life in an extension of Family Courts, where the adversary is replaced or complemented by the inquisitorial system.

Yours sincerely,
ALFRED WHITE FRANKLIN,
Convener, The Tynbridge Wells Study Group on Child Abuse,
149 Harley Street, W1.

Doctor manpower

From Ms Claire Whittemore

Sir, The question posed in your editorial "How many doctors for the '80s?" (March 14) has ramifications which extend well beyond the limits of domestic British policy and which are still too often overlooked.

As you rightly say, there are many areas of the National Health Service which are undermanned and which would create a need for more general doctors, especially those from the developing world. The other side of the coin is that encouraging this influx (when and to the extent that it suits us) has created an artificially high level of demand for medical training in countries that can ill afford it and where the net result may be a pool of underemployed, city based practitioners with skills scarcely relevant to the needs of their own people.

Now that these developing countries are increasingly coming to realize their need for many more paramedical workers and fewer high technology doctors, it would be foolish at best for this country to continue relying on a flow of migrant doctors to mask the inadequacies of the NHS.

In the course of research last year for an Oxfam report, "The Doctor-Go-Round", we found quite

a lot of support in the medical profession for the view that Britain has less than the developing countries should be making much wider use of medical auxiliaries. This is certainly the view we shall be putting to the Royal Commission on the NHS.

The Junior Hospital Doctors may well be alarmed to see their ranks becoming overworked by the more favoured areas of the Health Service, with a resultant undervaluing of their skills and reduced opportunity for promotion. The solution, however, should not be to create a sub-consultant level simply to satisfy the junior doctors' demand for a career path. This would do nothing to resolve the fundamental problems of the NHS and in particular that of providing adequate health care in the less attractive branches of the service.

The only practical and affordable answer in sight would be restructuring of the NHS to incorporate a new breed of paramedics costing less to train, providing easier and more appropriate access to basic health care and having more modest professional aspirations.

Yours faithfully,
CLAIRE WHITTEMORE,
Oxfam Public Affairs Unit,
Pernell House,
Wilton Road, SW1,
March 16.

Religion and the Ulster troubles

From Dr David Morrison

Sir, Speaking in Belfast Cathedral recently Roy Mason said he "found it strange that politics in Northern Ireland should be dominated by religion" (*The Times*, February 24). This remark will unfortunately give credence to the view that the Ulster conflict is essentially a religious one and that the unwillingness of the UUUC to share a Cabinet table at Stormont with the SDLP is due to religious intolerance. If progress is to be made towards a solution in Ulster, it is essential to realize that the conflict is not about the church people worship in but about the state people live in. And glib, disapproving statements about Ulster politicians believing that "no fellow politician who subscribes to a different view should be given any share in the decision making process" (to quote Roy Mason) take on a different aspect when the "different views" referred to are in fact irreconcilable preferences about which state Northern Ireland should belong to, about which a war is currently being waged.

Yet the Government is still insisting on a "partnership" between the holders of these different views and still, according to Roy Mason's briefing at Stormont on February 28, believes that such a "partnership" can be brought about. The Government apparently acknowledges that such a "partnership" will not come about voluntarily, otherwise they would have the UUUC's constitutional proposals under which coalition is perfectly possible if at any time sufficient political agreement exists. So it must be presumed that the Government favours a power sharing constitution which will guarantee that the separatist view, currently represented by the SDLP, will be present in every government from now on: the corollary of this is

that if the separatist tendency is absent then the government is constitutionally invalid, which means that the separatist tendency has the power to decide whether a government stands or falls and on what issue it stands or falls. It is a formidable triumph of optimism over common sense that this arrangement is postulated as a means of bringing stability and peace to a situation in which a war is being waged for separation.

It is as if the Government was insisting that Scotland must have a form of government which guarantees that the SNP would be in every government of Scotland, irrespective of the verdict of the electorate, and if at the same time there was a war going on to gain independence for Scotland. It is obvious that the various pro-Union parties in Scotland would reject such a proposal out of hand and, if the Ulster conflict was not regarded in many quarters as a religious one, it would be equally obvious that the pro-Union parties in Ulster would reject a similar arrangement.

It is time the Government dropped its futile commitment to this kind of "partnership" and acknowledged that since majority rule is considered to be a principle there is no alternative but to continue direct rule. There would then be no excuse for delaying the democratization of direct rule by

- (1) increasing Northern Ireland's representation at Westminster,
- (2) reforming the process of legislation for Northern Ireland at Westminster, and
- (3) providing for the democratic control of those local government matters which the Macrory Report reserved to the old Stormont Parliament.

Yours etc,
DAVID MORRISON,
Belfast, 15.

Income differences

From Professor P. S. Atiyah

Sir, The research findings mentioned in your issue of today (March 15), that there is less inequality than appears from comparing the incomes of individuals rather than households, is true at the top end of the scale as well as the bottom. As a household who has to maintain five and sometimes six persons on one income, I am acutely conscious of the fact that the income per capita of my household is today barely a third of the income of a married man without children, if he and his wife are each earning half my salary. In cold statistical tables I will appear a plutocrat by comparison with this hypothetical colleague, but the reality is precisely the reverse.

Moreover, everything that has happened in the past three years has multiplied this reverse disparity. In phase one of the pay policy I received no increase; this colleague and his wife would both have received 15 per week; in phase two again their combined increase would have been nearly twice mine. At the same time the

tax reliefs for children have become so eroded by inflation that the after tax income of a man even with three or four children is little different from that of the couple without children, especially when account is taken of the married woman's additional tax relief.

Then again, the position of many married couples who are both in employment has been improved by the Equal Pay Act. With virtually no increase in production in the past two years, the inevitable result of the equal pay policy has been to throw this additional burden on to married men whose wives do not work, and, of course, on bachelors.

Few people yet seem to have woken to the fact that the new differentials are not between skilled and unskilled, or middle class and working class. They are between those households where the wife works bringing up her children at home, and those households where there are no children and both spouses work. No wonder the birth rate has fallen sharply.

Yours faithfully,
P. S. ATIYAH,
University of Warwick,
Coventry.

The money supply

From Sir Keith Joseph, MP for Leeds, NE (Conservative)

Sir, My colleague, Reginald Maund, February 25, asserts that a declaration in money supply growth simultaneously increases unemployment, discourages investment and perpetuates stagnation, and he asks how long I wish the process described in his assertion to continue.

Mr Maund fails to grasp the distinction between the short and medium term and fails to recognize that inflation destroys jobs and profits even more than would its cure, as well as undermining investment. In the short term, a declaration of money supply growth will reduce jobs and levels of activity as inflation is squeezed out of the system—though the level of unem-

ployment will depend upon the degree to which trades unions price people out of jobs.

The process of deceleration cannot be shirked if inflation is to be checked: it is a painful, but inevitable consequence of previous monetary excess. But deceleration of money supply growth must continue—until the rate of growth of money is substantially less than its present level. This should take more than a year, possibly something like two or three years, to achieve.

Only by achieving and then maintaining such monetary restraint can we hope, sustainably, to increase employment, investment and prosperity.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH JOSEPH,
House of Commons,
March 17.

Encouraging literature

From Mr B. H. Baumfield

Sir, In his article "Questions to the Arts Council" (*The Times*, February 26), Tom Rosenhal makes the constructive suggestion that the Arts Council considers donating quantities of new novels to public libraries, as an encouragement of literature. Most librarians are trying very hard to make adequate quantities of new fiction available for public circulation, and find it increasingly difficult to do so, with rising prices, and book funds which cannot keep pace with the growth in terms. Manna is a rare commodity at the best of times, and if it arrived in such a form, would be warmly welcomed.

Charles Osborne, in his comments on the article, published on March 11, seems to cast public libraries once again as the wicked uncles of literature. His suggestion

that librarians are refusing to recognize, or are sabotaging their responsibility towards literature as an art form, is a painful, but inevitable consequence of their continued buying of expensive hardback fiction, helps materially towards ensuring that new novels does not die. Without this support—albeit in smaller volume than in former days—few publishers could consider bringing out the number of novels that they do, and the medium would rapidly be priced out of the market: a fact which may not have occurred to him.

Yours faithfully,
B. H. BAUMFIELD,
Borough Librarian and Curator,
London Borough of Brent,
Central Library,
High Road,
Willesden Green, NW10.

Exit the cream cracker

From the Vice-Chairman of the National Consumer Council

Sir, I am sorry that you think that it is a good thing that Brussels is seeking to erode the butter and milk mountains by manipulating food labelling regulations. The National Consumer Council thinks quite the contrary. The point of food labelling legislation is to give consumers a clear and accurate idea of what they are eating. The way to get rid of the mountains is for the Commission to set realistic, rather than extravagantly high, prices for dairy products.

If we let Brussels have its way, we may well all find ourselves having to pay artificially high prices for things like cheese and ice cream and, perhaps, not being able to buy them at all in forms that contain cheaper alternatives to dairy products.

Yours sincerely,
JOAN MACINTOSH,
Vice-Chairman,
National Consumer Council,
18 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
March 17.

naive that I think ice cream is in fact pure "cream", or that cream crackers have necessarily anything to do with cream from cows? If that were the case I am sure I would be apprehensive about buying a packer of fish fingers I have yet to meet anyone who thought that a Penguin biscuit was anything other than something crunchy covered in chocolate.

If, in future, products will have to contain precisely what their brand name implies—I hate to think of the price of Butterscotch!

Yours sincerely,
ELIZABETH EWART JAMES,
Weavers Cottage,
Gydnop,
Amberley, Gloucestershire,
March 15.

From Mr Paul Swain

Sir, If no ice cream without cream, what about rock cakes and bulls' eyes? Perhaps the European dairy industry has more influence than the quarry or abattoir lobbies.

Can we expect a Swiftian solution to the world's population problems when the EEC turns its attention to the jelly baby?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL SWAIN,
10 Granville Square, WC1.

Past successes bring a new challenge to the arts

*The Nationalization of Culture, by Janet Minihan (Hamish Hamilton, £8.50)

†The Economics of the Arts, Edited by Mark Blaug (Martin Robertson, £8.45)

Support for the arts in Britain over the last two hundred years has had nothing in common with thought through schemes for the extension of state ownership. On the contrary it has proceeded by continuous variations on the theme of ad hocery. Despite its inapt and misleading title and a further potentially crippling disadvantage of birth as a doctoral dissertation for Columbia University, Miss Minihan's book is an entertaining and readable account of state support for the arts from the beginning of the nineteenth century down to the present day. Her chapter on the work of the Arts Council is rather slight and this is supplemented usefully by Mr Blaug's symposium *The Economics of the Arts*, made up of sixteen previously published articles, some of a daunting technicality, by a variety of authors, and including a response on behalf of the Arts Council by Messrs King and Blaug, originally published in *Encounter* in September, 1973. Some of these contributions which date from the Sixties look a little faded and others are of minority appeal—"The Demand for Broadway Theatre Tickets (1966)" will not be found universally enthralling—but one welcomes a serious attempt to probe the rationale and achievements of official arts patronage.

The roots of public patronage stretch back to the early days of the monarchy and the founding of the Christian Church in Britain—but Miss Minihan's selection of the foundation of the Royal Academy of Arts by the much maligned and greatly underestimated King George III (recently graciously rehabilitated thanks to the efforts of the Prince of Wales) as a starting point is sensible since it marked a new departure in British cultural life, modelled (as nearly always in the arts field) on French experience. Further progress came in fits and starts through the unlikely agency of select committees of the House of Commons. If you want to get anything done in Britain first catch your com-

mittee! As Bagehot pointed out "we are born with a belief in a green cloth, clean pens and twelve men with grey hair. In topics of belief the ultimate standard is the jury". In 1835 came the Select Committee on Arts and Manufacture, Parliament's first extensive inquiry into the state of the arts in Britain and as a result a school of design was set up in London. A further stimulus came with the destruction of the Houses of Parliament by fire in 1834 and the setting up of another select committee to decorate the interior which eventually turned itself into the Royal Commission on the Fine Arts under the patronage of Prince Albert in 1841.

Interest in the arts was further stimulated by the Royal Commission created to prepare for the Great Exhibition of 1851, and by Act of Parliament a few years earlier another advance was made when municipalities were authorized to provide their own cultural activities.

Another piece of private enterprise came in 1903 when thanks to Lord Balfour the National Art-Collectors Fund was set up to keep art treasures in Britain, and the project for a National Theatre began its long and now happily successful period of incubation. Between the wars the Labour Government showed sympathy for the arts but failed in the hungry Thirties to produce any coherent plan for fostering them and the greatest advance of the period came by a side wind through the setting up of the BBC which soon became a munificent patron especially of music. With the Second World War came ENSA and CEMA and through the midwifery of Lord Keynes and the Churchill Government they turned into the Arts Council, surely one of the happiest inventions of the postwar period.

Public support for the arts in Britain has been spasmodic and ill thought out. Suspicion and dislike of government patronage has been perennial: "God help the minister that meddles with art" declared the great Lord Melbourne to Benjamin Haydon who was one of the most persistent meddlers of the time. Art has always had to justify itself to the British public on grounds other than its own intrinsic value: it has

had to improve morality, or design, or manufacture, or as today, benefit the balance of payments. *Arts gratia artis* has been about as meaningful to Great Britain as to Metro Goldwyn Mayer.

Still some progress has been made: the Arts Council does exist (although it took a world war to bring it about) and the National Theatre is at last a reality. Yet the arts today face as grave a challenge as any in our history. Private patronage has been destroyed by social policies and Mr Blaug points out in his interesting essay in "The Economics of the Arts" rising costs in the arts steadily and cumulatively outstrip the rate of inflation elsewhere in the economy. Unless this is recognized the arts seem to be doomed to a state of perpetual financial crisis. New methods of help need to be considered: tax reliefs to the performing arts and to private donors and even use of the ubiquitous voucher proposal whose translation from the educational to the arts sphere is counselled by Mr Peacock.

The Arts Council along with the University Grants Committee have gone far to reconcile the potential clash between state support and artistic and academic freedom but there is room for further advance. The aims and goals of the Arts Council do need to be restated and redefined in the light of present day conditions and its failures recognized as well as its successes. It has succeeded well in spreading the arts to the regions and so meeting Coburn's much echoed complaint that the provinces should not be taxed to promote metropolitan pleasures, but it has not fulfilled a basic aim of finding a new type of audience for the arts. Well educated, still comparatively well heeled, obstinately middle class, the provincial arts audience is simply the London public writ small. The Arts Council should do better than this. Among the many great achievements of the nineteenth century was passing on to the middle class the essence of a culture which hitherto had been almost wholly aristocratically centred: we still have to do this for the new mass audiences of our own time.

Norman St John-Stevens

Money talks, and it may cure as well

The argument that patients only appreciate what they pay for, and that treatment which is free at the time of consultation leads to the inefficient use of medical resources, is one which has been heard throughout the life of the National Health Service. Like many arguments about the NHS, it is essentially an ideological one, and nobody has ever produced any hard evidence in support or refutation. Indeed, it is difficult to see how the proposition could possibly be tested in Britain now. Fortunately, the system of medical care in the United States, where many patients still pay directly for their treatment, makes it possible to conduct such an experiment, and two researchers have just published the results of a study which provides us for the first time with facts rather than conjecture.

Dr J. Cody and psychologist Anne Robins thought that one reason why some schizophrenic out-patients relapsed was that they could not afford the drugs which helped to control their disorder, and which could cost up to \$40 a month. Accordingly, they arranged that about 100 patients would be assigned at random to two groups, one of which would have to pay the normal retail price for their drugs, while the other patients were supplied with them

for a nominal fee of \$1. They expected that the relapse rate would be higher in the group which paid the full cost.

What actually happened was the exact opposite. Of the patients who paid only \$1, 34 per cent relapsed during the period of the study, compared with only 15 per cent of the full-cost group. This difference was statistically significant, but the authors are rightly cautious about the inferences to be drawn, and they suggest that the experiment ought to be repeated by other workers, though it could equally be asked why it has not been done before.

Although one should not automatically assume that what may be true for schizophrenic out-patients will necessarily be true for people suffering from physical complaints, these findings give some support to doctors, and to organizations such as the Fellowship for Freedom in Medicine, who believe that the payment of a fee—even if all or most of it is subsequently refunded—tends to improve the quality of the doctor-patient relationship, and hence the quality of medical care. Another factor is that the placebo effect—that is, the tendency of patients to feel better after taking even an inert medicine if they believe that it will do them good—is probably enhanced by payments.

The idea that expensive tablets may be more effective than cheap ones will disturb many doctors, and is completely opposed to the basic philosophy of the NHS, but the notion was both familiar and acceptable to previous generations of doctors and patients. In the days when most medicines were really placebos, fortunes were made by charging high prices for pills which cost only a few pence to make, and the habit is not extinct today. Honest doctors did not like to feel that they were profiteering and they compromised by having some of their placebos gold plated, so that they could make the patient pay an impressive price with a reasonably clear conscience.

I was once shown an ancient machine for gold-plating pills, and until a few years ago there was a solitary gold-plated remedy which could be prescribed through the NHS. It was for the treatment of impotence. It is not surprising that the authors conclude that "the direct cost to the patient may be an important part of the placebo effect of drugs, and greatly influence the outcome of therapy."

Although the NHS drug bill is only a small part of its total expenditure, it is universally agreed that over-prescribing is rife. Each year, more than 100,000 people take deliberate over-

doses, more than half of which involve medically prescribed drugs. Many patients, in contrast, do not take the drugs which are prescribed for them. If, as this study suggests, patients are more likely to take their drugs correctly when the cost of them is made apparent in the most direct manner possible, then the idea of payment becomes less unthinkable, especially when so much of the medicine which is consumed is prescribed to pacify the patient rather than because the doctor thinks it necessary.

In an ideal world, better education of both patients and doctors might reduce the amount of unnecessary consultation and prescribing, but pending the millennium, we might recognize that money not only talks but may cure as well. One of the fundamental problems of the NHS is its apparent belief that neither doctors nor patients are significantly motivated by financial considerations. This belief is becoming increasingly difficult to defend and may well wonder, like Cody and Robins, whether "a tendency to devalue what is acquired easily might apply, beyond drugs, to other forms of low cost or gratuitous medical treatment."

Dr Colin Brewer

What is really going on in our prisons?

to the Fowler inquiry: "With no support in his defence and no right of appeal, it is easy to see how a prisoner might come to harbour a genuine grievance."

In the absence of an independent public inquiry into the Hull riot, the prisoners concerned feel that the disciplinary dice are loaded against them. On matters of internal prison discipline, an inmate cannot call witnesses or seek legal aid and advice. The prison board of visitors, which adjudicates, is appointed by the Home Office.

Prisoners are given a sober warning of the implications of lodging a complaint in the book of rules to be found in each cell: "You should bear in mind that while it is important to prevent any abuse of authority, it is equally important to protect the staff against malicious or ill-founded attacks. A prisoner who makes such attacks lays himself open to punishment."

Such punishment is at the discretion of the prison authorities. Rule 43 states: "Where it appears desirable, for the maintenance of good order or discipline or in his own interests, that a prisoner should not associate with other prisoners, the Governor may arrange for the prisoner's removal from association accordingly." Among aggrieved inmates, Rule 43 is regarded as a euphemism for solitary confinement and a byword for arbitrary discipline.

Allegations that IRA prisoners at Gartree have suffered beatings and

victimization by prison officers drew the response recently, from Mr Rees that some prisoners wilfully harass staff and incite disturbances. Provocation by inmates and revenge by prison officers are recurring accusations in the recent unrest, and call out for independent arbitration.

The use of drugs at Gartree also leaves questions unanswered. The Home Office's insistence that they are administered under strict medical supervision makes no allowance for the individual interpretation which a doctor can draw as to suitable dosages.

Grey areas of prison administration are highlighted in a newly published book, *Prisoners in Revolt*, by Mike Fitzgerald (Pelican, £1). In an undisguised partisan account of prison government—the author is a founder member of the Preservation of the Rights of Prisoners (Prop) group—he points to "administrative decisions unresponsive to public or legal scrutiny; no access to appeal procedures; a need to conform rigorously to the institutions' every rule; a massive potential for arbitrariness and injustice on the part of the prison officers and Home Office administration."

Prisoners' self-respect is being destroyed, Dr Fitzgerald contends, by doing demeaning work for a pittance, being denied any privacy or, in many cases, more than an hour's freedom of movement a day. They may also be subjected to drugs "to assist in the 'good

order' and smooth running of the institution", and are under the control of prison officers who require only six weeks' formal training.

He suggests that prisoners' uprisings such as the Hull riot are symptomatic of widespread dissatisfaction with archaic prison conditions, rather than the isolated incidents diagnosed by the Home Office. "Thousands of protests, both individual and collective, by prisoners have been suppressed 'officially' and the grievance ignored. The walls of a prison are as effective in shutting out the inquirer as they are in hiding away the prisoner."

A Home Office report on the last major case of prison unrest, at Parkhurst, in 1969, was never published (Mr Callaghan was the Home Secretary of the day). Although Mr Rees has said that the forthcoming report on the Hull prison riot is being prepared with the intention of publication, he has given no assurance that it will be published.

Dr Fitzgerald's book, for all its idealism and political motivation, repeatedly asks whether, beyond the punitive function of incarceration, such prisons are a fit environment for the rehabilitation of human beings. Until more open information about prison government is made available, and more judicious means are found of administering it, it can only be assumed that the answer is no.

Peter Godfrey

The bright lights taste comes to Telford.

When the Cinzano people decided to bottle their famous vermouth themselves in Britain, they were determined about the business of finding the best possible location for their new project. It had to fulfil several important requirements: for instance, it had to provide a pleasant home environment for the valued Cinzano work-force: it had to be in the right situation for a distribution centre; and it had to offer a welcome in the form of assistance and co-operation towards industrial investment—such as Cinzano was proposing. After a thorough search, they chose Telford—and are currently moving into a major factory complex on

the Halesfield Industrial Estate. So, next year all Britain's Cinzano will be bottled in Telford.

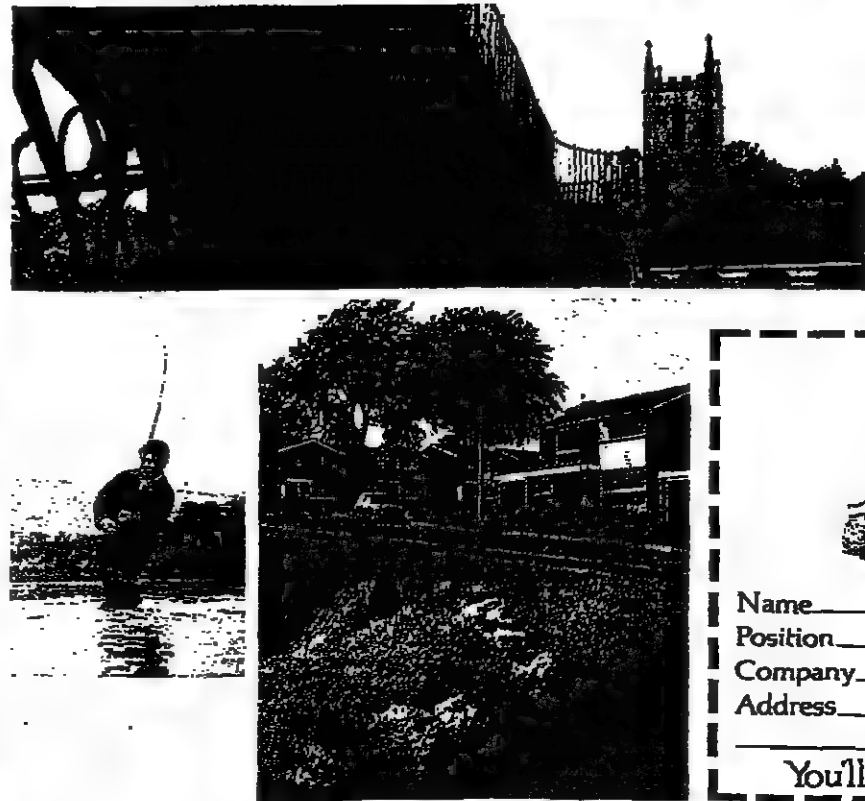
Dr. Eduardo Ferrero, Managing Director of Cinzano (U.K.) says: "Our decisions on choosing a site were based on many factors, such as location, availability of labour, and price. On balance, Telford offered us the best deal we saw. Telford's assistance—not only from the straight industrial aspects—has been considerable, and I would most certainly recommend anyone considering a business move to look closely at what Telford has to offer."

The trend towards Telford is summed up in Dr. Ferrero's comments. So if you're thinking of moving, expanding, or just opening—think Telford. It offers a great deal—and a great future. Post the coupon, or contact:

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SPORT

Cricket

Lillee rests from England tour

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

To the relief, no doubt, of English batsmen, but to everyone else's disappointment, the Australian team to tour England this summer, announced from Melbourne yesterday, will be without Dennis Lillee. His medical advice is to rest his back. The loss of Lillee has prompted the selectors to take a chance with Thomson's fitness by including him among the following 17 players:

R. J. Bright (Victoria); G. S. Chappell (Queensland); C. J. Cosier (South Australia); I. D. Davis (New South Wales); G. Dymock (Queensland); D. W. Rookes (South Australia); K. Hughes (Western Australia); M. F. Malone (Western Australia); R. W. Marsh (Western Australia); R. B. McCosker (New South Wales); K. J. O'Keefe (New South Wales); L. S. Pascoe (New South Wales); R. D. Robinson (Victoria); C. S. Scarlett (Western Australia); J. R. Thomson (Queensland); K. D. Walters (New South Wales); M. H. N. Walker (Victoria).

Cricket, no less than Australia, can ill afford to lose a bowler of such dramatic brilliance as Lillee. How much his absence has to do with the lucrative offer he is said to have had from an Australian television company, how much with the desire not to be parted again from his family so soon after a long Australian season, or how much with the discomforts suffered when he bowls only Lillee himself knows. What is certain is that the tour will not be the same without him and the Australian team nothing less as good. At 27, Lillee could still have another series or two in him, even after missing this one, including England's next visit to Australia in 1978-79.

Of the new men in the Australian party, the young Southsman who is being thought of as another Bradman, a burden which has fallen, since the great man retired, upon Ian Craig, Norman O'Neill, and Doug Walters. Hughes, Cosier and Serjani are also batsmen. Robinson is reserve wicketkeeper, he has, besides, just headed the Australian batting averages, and Dymock (right arm swing), Pascoe (left arm), and Bright (orthodox left arm) are bowlers.

Among other omissions the unlucky ones are Gilchrist, who recently won a Test match against New Zealand with his batting, and whose bowling (brisk right arm) in the World Cup at Headingley in 1975, and Turner, who made a courageous and effective opening partner against West Indies last winter. Yallop is another of no fewer than seven of the Australian side that won the last Test against West Indies 18 months ago, who will not be coming this summer. Australia are entering a period of transition, now with Lillee to help them through it. They are more vulnerable, I think, than they have been since losing the Ashes to England's side in 1970-71. They will arrive in London on April 21, and play their first match—a one day game at Arundel—six days later.

Georgetown, March 17.—West Indies, their morale boosted by victory yesterday in a one-day international, will be in the third Test against Pakistan which opens at the Bourda Oval here tomorrow.

ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL SCORES: Pakistan, 176 for 7 (45 overs); West Indies, 182 for 6 (45.2 overs).—Rutter.



Bat and ball: Randall (left) and Lillee, men of distinction on the last day.

A dish to set before the Queen

From Colin Cowdrey
Melbourne, March 17

As the light began to fade after five gloriously sunny days of enthralling cricket, Knott was dismissed by Lillee, his fifth wicket and eleventh in the match, and Australia had won the century Test match by 45 runs.

By some coincidence, on March 17, 1877, a hundred years to the day, England were set a target of 154 and also lost by 45 runs. In 1907 it was a sadder task. In scoring 417, England achieved the highest total in the fourth innings of an Anglo-Australian Test match and in doing so have won all hearts.

The last day began with England left to score just 272 to win—50 in each session, a task by no means beyond them on the day. England were set a target of 154 and also lost by 45 runs. In 1907 it was a sadder task. In scoring 417, England achieved the highest total in the fourth innings of an Anglo-Australian Test match and in doing so have won all hearts.

The first hour was fascinating, for Chappell had a problem. With Gilchrist injured, Lillee was the trump card. He had to be thrown in to the fray to make the early break, if possible, but the new ball was available and Chappell bowled dully and took no wicket. Next ball he tucked him away to fine leg for his first Test hundred and became the fourth batsman to score a hundred in his first Test match.

I was delighted for him after his glorious run in India, where his innings of 157 in a Test match had been 37, but he had made a huge contribution to the team's success by his enthusiasm. It would have been a disaster if he had not shown the old lapse of concentration in the excitement of his achievement but he just played

better and better as he went along. He is something of an irresistible Jack-in-the-box both in batting and fielding but today he assumed responsibility to fit the occasion. His timing never left him; only fatigue slowed him down and, in part, contributed to his downfall. All the while Amos looked a class player with plenty of time. He seems to have the broadest bat in English cricket today and Lillee did not trouble him as much as I expected. His sudden dismissal by a ball that kept rather low was the turning point of the day. True, that while Greig and Randall were together we could still have won but somehow I had the feeling that we were beginning to live too dangerously.

When Randall made 161 he edged Greig Chappell low and wide where Marsh appeared to have scooped his glove under the catch. As he rolled over and over the umpire upheld the appeal and Randall departed a disconsolate figure. Without delay Marsh leapt in his feet and rushed down the wicket to tell his captain that the ball had bounced. The umpires conferred and Randall was recalled. It was indeed a chivalrous gesture as such a critical moment of the match.

Just before tea England were slowed down by some good bowling from Chappell himself and he elected to gamble with O'Keefe. In his first over, O'Keefe bowled full length to take a magnificent catch off bat and pad and Randall's historic innings had closed at 174. The whole ground rose to him.

Through the tears of joy he went out through the wrong gate.

finding himself at the end of the path leading to the special box where the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were sitting. Within a few minutes of them he discovered his mistake and stopped in his tracks and, much to the amusement of all, bowed before beating a hasty retreat across the public road. It was a happy moment for the day had belonged to him.

It might be arguable that Lillee's great bowling could have earned him the prize of Man of the Match, but without doubt Randall was the man who had made the match complete. There were not four gladder hearts in Melbourne today than Larwood, Vogt, Hardesty and Simpson, giant games from Trent Bridge.

If the game tilted fairly sharply towards Australia after tea Knott made it clear that they were not going to have it all their own way. He played a series of punishing shots, leading Lillee with utter contempt. He is a genius of improvisation.

But the day finished with Lillee summing up energy and fire from I do not know where. He was bowling faster at the end than he was at the beginning and deservedly he was carried aloft first by players and then by some of his ecstatic countrymen, while a doren of more policemen surrounded him to keep him intact.

But alas, his medical advisers have determined that he is not quite intact although you could never have guessed it today. Sadly for the English public but not for the English cricket team, he has withdrawn from the forthcoming tour of England.

We have had a remarkable week and life will be rather flat if we have had the last day of a Test match more than this one. It had evened up the English batsmen's part in the challenge, but wicketkeepers making their mark, some wonderful fast bowling, good fielding, a superb bowling, some fine fielding, a superb gesture and a large crowd. The result was open until near the end. When Randall and Greig were taking the match back before tea there was still the prospect of an English victory. What a dish it was to set before the Queen.

England Test batsman Derek Randall will receive a welcome home as he returns home to Nottinghamshire. The county council announced yesterday that they are planning a civic reception for the 26-year-old local-born batsman.

Test scorecard

AUSTRALIA: First innings, 154 (38.1 overs).
1. G. S. Chappell, 100 (110 balls, 10 fours, 1 six).
2. I. D. Davis, 41 (100 balls, 4 fours, 1 six).
3. R. J. Bright, 16 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
4. C. J. Cosier, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
5. G. Dymock, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
6. D. W. Rookes, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
7. K. Hughes, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
8. M. F. Malone, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
9. R. W. Marsh, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
10. R. B. McCosker, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
11. K. J. O'Keefe, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
12. L. S. Pascoe, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
13. R. D. Robinson, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
14. C. S. Scarlett, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
15. J. R. Thomson, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
16. K. D. Walters, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
17. M. H. N. Walker, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).

ENGLAND: First innings, 417 (100 overs).
1. D. G. Lillee, 161 (100 balls, 10 fours, 1 six).
2. G. R. Randall, 174 (100 balls, 10 fours, 1 six).
3. I. G. Chappell, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
4. D. W. Rookes, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
5. K. Hughes, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
6. M. F. Malone, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
7. R. W. Marsh, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
8. R. B. McCosker, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
9. K. J. O'Keefe, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
10. L. S. Pascoe, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
11. R. D. Robinson, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
12. C. S. Scarlett, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
13. J. R. Thomson, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
14. K. D. Walters, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
15. M. H. N. Walker, 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-100 (100 balls), 2-154 (38.1 overs), 3-154 (38.1 overs), 4-154 (38.1 overs), 5-154 (38.1 overs), 6-154 (38.1 overs), 7-154 (38.1 overs), 8-154 (38.1 overs), 9-154 (38.1 overs), 10-154 (38.1 overs), 11-154 (38.1 overs), 12-154 (38.1 overs), 13-154 (38.1 overs), 14-154 (38.1 overs), 15-154 (38.1 overs), 16-154 (38.1 overs), 17-154 (38.1 overs).

BOWLING: Lillee 34.6-10-174-3, Randall 24.6-10-174-3, Chappell 24.6-10-174-3, Rookes 24.6-10-174-3, Hughes 24.6-10-174-3, Malone 24.6-10-174-3, Marsh 24.6-10-174-3, McCosker 24.6-10-174-3, O'Keefe 24.6-10-174-3, Pascoe 24.6-10-174-3, Robinson 24.6-10-174-3, Scarlett 24.6-10-174-3, Thomson 24.6-10-174-3, Walters 24.6-10-174-3, Walker 24.6-10-174-3.

Extras: 10 (100 balls, 1 four, 1 six).
Total: 417 (100 overs).

Football

Liverpool now face a month of questions

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

The talk at Anfield after Liverpool's European Cup quarter-final round defeat of the French champions, St Etienne, on Wednesday night was not of today's draw for the semi-final performance, but of the final in Rome, tomorrow's FA Cup tie with Middlesbrough and the improved chances of retaining the championship. Liverpool's decision to forfeit one of their matches in hand by losing 4-0 to West Bromwich Albion.

It was infectious excitement, reflecting the atmosphere of the occasion, and one felt that Liverpool's performance in the semi-final would be a masterpiece. The demands of the Kop and though St Etienne were pleasing to the eye and commendably attempted to play through the storm, there was an inevitability about their final defeat.

The question is now whether Liverpool can survive the momentum in the busy month ahead, emulating Wednesday's performance in the semi-final round, and the cup with the more demanding challenge of the European Cup final itself. Many think they have passed their stamina could not be faulted, but that single match in Rome is a totally different hurdle.

The quarter-final first leg game in St Etienne, when Liverpool lost 1-0, showed that they could play with glacial consideration for the needs of the day. For some time on Wednesday, their attitude was recklessly headstrong and though, in the end, St Etienne won, Liverpool would do well to remember the technical merit of the first game as much as the glory of the second.

Rugby Union

Lions backs could be short on flair, All Black says

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Graham Thorpe, a former All-Blacks three-quarter, watched the Lions' training session in Auckland on Wednesday and came to the conclusion, on that evidence, that the British Lions might have a hard time in New Zealand this summer. However, he has now arrived here on a business trip and, having been at the All-Blacks' training session, he has confessed to a feeling of some unease.

"I was impressed by the forward play in Cardiff," he said, "and the combination of those two players could produce something very useful indeed." Thorpe, now working for television in Auckland, played 10 times for New Zealand between 1968 and 1970. In general terms, he now thinks the Lions have the makings of a very good side, but he also believes that his country might have the better set of backs.

He has great respect for the backs of the British team, but considers that Mike Gibson has lost his old explosive acceleration. "The Lions backs are going to be a real test for the All-Blacks," he concludes. "And all New Zealanders are sorry that Gareth Edwards, Gerald Davies and John P. Williams seem out of the hunt because they were injured before the tour."

Thorpe admits that New Zealand rugby is at the crossroads, desperately needing success in the 1977 tour. After their failure against them in 1971, they are planning a civic reception for the 26-year-old local-born batsman.

If they should reach Rome it may well be a combination of both styles that offers the chance of becoming only the third British club to win the European Cup. Talk of an incredible treble—the European Cup, FA Cup and the championship—is not realistic in a modern busy season, yet Liverpool do see the chance. They have eight games in the coming month and every one of cup tie proportions.

The loss of Thompson, with cardiac trouble, has weakened the defence more seriously than was noticed on Wednesday, but the use of Fairclough as a tactical substitute can continue to be of great value in times of stress. His goal, Liverpool's decisive goal, against the French was superbly executed and justified the French manager's earlier fears that Liverpool might be over-reliant on Keegan, whom they most feared.

The weakest team left in today's semi-final round draw comes from Zurich, who surprisingly beat Dynamo Dresden, of East Germany, on away goals and had previously evicted Fulham of England and Rangers, Bayern Munich for three successive seasons was ended by Dynamo, of Kiev, who are now perhaps Liverpool's most difficult threat.

West Germany's second representative, Borussia Mönchengladbach, survived by beating Bruges 1-0 in Belgium, which confirms that in Bayern's absence they are capable of stopping Liverpool. In the event of European participation to a fitting climax in the final itself, in the meantime, Liverpool are trying to repair the physical damage to Keegan (bruised leg), Callaghan (heel injury) and Toshack (ankle injury) in time for tomorrow's FA Cup tie with Middlesbrough.

They are Ken Haden, a lock, who was in the last tour party, Murray Taylor, the Walcott stand-off, Stewart Wilson, a Wellington wing, and Greg Rowlands, the Bay of Plenty full back. Taylor's brother was also in Argentina as an inside centre.

The captain was Graham Morrison, late from Taranaki, who says Thorpe has a great run. Wilson is rated by Thorpe in the highest terms. The qualities of all these players, who he has known in Argentina and will now, as successor to John Stewart (who retired last season), prepare the All-Blacks to defend the title.

This is the side that Thorpe predicts will represent New Zealand in the first international: Greg Rowlands; Bryan Williams, Bruce Robertson, Stewart Wilson; Murray Taylor, Sidney Goring; Billy Bush, Tane Horron, Brad Johnston, Peter Williams; Ken Haden, a lock, and Patrick, Bob Leslie (captain) and No. 8, and Ken Eveleigh.

They are Ken Haden, a lock, who was in the last tour party, Murray Taylor, the Walcott stand-off, Stewart Wilson, a Wellington wing, and Greg Rowlands, the Bay of Plenty full back. Taylor's brother was also in Argentina as an inside centre.

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Golf



Rough passage: Mrs Angela Bonallack in trouble in the Avia foursomes yesterday

Good end of a wedge wins foursomes title

By Peter Ryde
Golf Correspondent

The shot of a lifetime played by Tegwen Perkins, the Welsh Cup player, won her and Mrs McKenna first place in the Avia Women's foursomes tournament at the Berkshire club yesterday. They had a final round of 78 and a total of 312.

Coming to the short 18th on the Red in the lead by one, they needed a three to avoid finishing second because in the event of a tie, first place would have gone to the pair with the better last round, in this case the 78 of Angela Uddell and Sandra Neesham, the Scottish champion.

Miss McKenna's two-iron was hooked short of the left hand bunker and finished on a down-bunker, the bunker and Uddell. They took advice on whether they could lift and place, and were allowed to on the ground. The pair applied to all mown surfaces. The relief turned a hopeless shot into a difficult one—downhill lie, sanding unevenly, and a bunker and looking into a setting sun.

Miss Perkins took her sand wedge, played the stroke crisply but with just the right feel, and the ball rolled one foot behind the flag. Between them the winners had had a depressing day but this stroke was a justification for all the hard practice. Miss Perkins has put into the game. It was Miss McKenna's first series of victory in this country, and the winners collected a £100 voucher each. Both acknowledged the help it would be to them in golf.

They are Ken Haden, a lock, who was in the last tour party, Murray Taylor, the Walcott stand-off, Stewart Wilson, a Wellington wing, and Greg Rowlands, the Bay of Plenty full back. Taylor's brother was also in Argentina as an inside centre.

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This is the side that Thorpe predicts will represent New Zealand in the first international: Greg Rowlands; Bryan Williams, Bruce Robertson, Stewart Wilson; Murray Taylor, Sidney Goring; Billy Bush, Tane Horron, Brad Johnston, Peter Williams; Ken Haden, a lock, and Patrick, Bob Leslie (captain) and No. 8, and Ken Eveleigh.

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The eight-stroke lead they held at the halfway stage was down to one by lunch, after they had taken 84. It was a little more than Mrs Barber, playing with them, took 86. One felt that the leaders, with their recent Curtis Cup experience, should have contained their score better, even in the difficult conditions, but they were a trifle unlucky at the sixteenth on the Blue, their tee-shot plugging in the top of a bunker from where they took two to get out. In this case the 78 of Angela Uddell and Sandra Neesham, the Scottish champion.

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Rowing

Oxford win the first official competition

By Jim Reillon

A brief moment was taken up yesterday with the official weighing in of the Boat Race crews for Saturday's race (1.0). Oxford took the day with an average weight of 13st 9lb—5lb heavier than Cambridge. Oxford, too, will carry less "dead-weight".

Their coxswain, Colin Moynihan, complete in bathing costume, weighed in 30lb lighter than his track-suited counterpart, Joe Manser, although a cox's knowledge of the Tideway can be worth a stone or more. Isis, the Oxford reserve crew, weighed in an average 6lb lighter than Goldie, their opponents in the "mini Boat Race" which takes place half an hour before the main event.

The occasion provided some humour and a wealth of statistics. The official weighing-in of the crews started only 8.30 when Oxford recorded the heaviest average crew of all time—a shade over 14st. Some concern had been

expressed by historians before 1976 after oarsmen had been observed approaching the scales in a demonstration "weight" with a deliberate walk like a deep sea diver suitably weighed down.

The first crew to average 12st was Oxford in 1867. In 1936 the winning Cambridge crew was first to average over 13st. Last year, Oxford pushed the record over 14st, and one can only wonder if we can afford to feed the rowers these days before a last average crew can be contemplated.

Statistically, this year's Oxford crew is the heaviest in the history of the race. It would have been a disaster if he had not shown the old lapse of concentration in the excitement of his achievement but he just played

Saturday, according to another Cambridge supporter, but the conversation had become distinctly heavy before that point could be pursued.

But the Tideway yesterday was taken over by over 2000 schoolboys. Hampton School won the event for the first time by a margin of just 1sec and celebrated a double first by becoming the first crew to cross the line in a fibreglass carbon-reinforced British boat. Shrewsbury, who finished in second place last year, with a boat somewhat heavier, were overruled in an objection that they were bogged by crews while they came through from fifth position.

RESULTS: Eighties: 1. Hampton, 8min 5.0sec; 2. Shrewsbury, 8min 6.0sec; 3. St Edward's, 8min 10.0sec; 4. Kingston, 8min 12.0sec; 5. Canford, 8min 14.0sec; 6. St Andrew's, 8min 16.0sec; 7. Bedford School, 8min 18.0sec; 8. St Albans, 8min 20.0sec; 9. St John's, 8min 22.0sec; 10. Other Reman winners, 8min 24.0sec; 11. Junior Under-19, Westminster College, 8min 26.0sec.

The editor has assembled articles and illustrations about the 12 men who have won the British open championship. This information has never before been gathered into one publication. It could have been done more thoroughly and, in view of its essentially factual nature, the artist's impressions of the players are less satisfying than the photographs.

Chapman's smartly produced and easily digested Teaching Squash (C. Bell and Sons, 52 pages, 11s). This looks more like a magazine than a book, but it will be a useful work of reference.

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Boxing

Lyle takes it easy while Bugner toils

Las Vegas, March 17.—Ron Lyle, the American heavyweight, finished sparring yesterday in preparation for Sunday's scheduled 12-rounder with Joe Bugner, of Britain. The two men will meet in the sports pavilion at Caesar's Palace here.

Lyle, aged 35, said he was in top physical and mental condition, and his veteran trainer, Sam Stacey, agreed. Lyle, the seventh-ranked contender, has three active rounds with a companion, Henry Clark, then worked over 10 rounds, finishing his relatively short workout. He will continue to go running, but will work only on the bags and on mathematics today and tomorrow. The weigh-in is on Saturday.

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Many observers have been surprised by the relatively light workout which Mr Bugner has been giving Lyle. In contrast, Bugner has been working hard and some Lyle explained that he had already done his hard work and is now just trying to keep himself in peak condition.

Bugner, ranked fourth in the world, went through another heavy workout yesterday and planned to end his sparring with four more rounds today before switching to light work tomorrow and Saturday. Bugner's manager, trainer, Andy Smith, said his boxer is right on course for Sunday.

Lyle has lost four of his last five fights, including a defeat with Muhammad Ali in 1975 and two unanimous decisions in a fellow American, Jimmy Young.

London: Maurice Hope, the British boxer who failed to win the world light-middleweight title in Berlin on Tuesday when he was held by the holder, Eckhard Dage, of West Germany, has been advised by his manager, John P. Williams, that he must defend his European title by May 28. His opponent will be another German, Frank Kroll, who is ranked fourth in the world.

Chicago: A spokesman for Muhammad Ali denied yesterday that the world heavyweight champion had agreed to defend his title against Lorenzo Zamora, of Italy, in a bout arranged by an American promoter, Paul Corvino.

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Real tennis

Cambridge's solid oaks

By Our Real Tennis Correspondent

Cambridge beat

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
"Afore ye go"

"Afore ye go"

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Growth
apply
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The Carnegie

Country	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030	2040	2050
Japan	7	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
Germany	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
France	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Italy	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Spain	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sweden	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
United Kingdom	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
United States	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Canada	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Belgium	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Netherlands	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Australia	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
South Korea	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
India	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
China	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
South Africa	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
Brazil	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
Argentina	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
Colombia	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
Venezuela	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
Chile	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
Peru	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
Ecuador	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
Bolivia	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
Paraguay	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43
Uruguay	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
Costa Rica	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Panama	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
Dominican Republic	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
Honduras	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
Nicaragua	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
Guatemala	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
El Salvador	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51
Haiti	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
Jamaica	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53
Trinidad and Tobago	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
Bahamas	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
Barbados	46	47	48	49							

هكذا من الأحول

Worries over
the Third
World's
growing debts.

p27

Growth of money supply over 10 months down to only 5pc

By John Whitmore

Sterling M3, broadly-defined money supply, fell for the third consecutive month in the four weeks to mid-February, but the recent process of contraction in the money supply has almost certainly come to an end. Meanwhile, the Bank of England was active yesterday, re-emphasising its wish for moderation in the pace of decline in interest rates. Its "signals" to the money market were taken to mean that it will be reluctant to cut its minimum lending rate by more than half a point, to 10½ per cent, today, whatever the outcome of this week's treasury bill tender.

February's fall in Sterling M3 of 0.7 per cent (from £39,500m to £39,320m seasonally adjusted) cuts the overall growth in monetary expansion in the first 10 months of this year to just over 5 per cent.

This compares with the Government's target, spent over last December, of growth over the full 12 months in the range of 9-12 per cent. But though it is clear that the Government is likely to undershoot even the lower end of this target, the final two months of the year seem certain to see a significant reversal of the recent contraction.

This is because the Government has not only moved back into a period of heavy seasonal deficit but also stopped draining money out of the system by sales of gilt-edged stock. In addition, the recent intervention of the authorities in the foreign exchange market, to hold down the level of sterling, will probably have resulted in the sale of substantial amounts of sterling that will have worked back into the system.

By contrast, in the month to mid-February the Central Government's borrowing requirement was relatively modest and there were further net sales of gilts—though the sale of the £1,250m rap stock in late January was partly offset by the buying-in of short-dated stocks coming up for redemption in March.

In addition, bank lending to the private sector was flat, falling by £306m. But the precise underlying trend in bank lending, though clearly not buoyant, is particularly difficult to interpret at the moment because of the large number of exceptional factors.

In February, for instance, part of the fall is explained by the unwinding of loans made to jobbers and money brokers during the period of heavy gilt trading in January. There were also further repayments of loans that had been made in connection with the sterling financing of third country trade.

The other main indication from yesterday's figures is that the Government is not simply going to undershoot its full-year domestic credit expansion target of £5,000m, but undershoot very substantially. Figures published yesterday showed that DCE in the first nine months was no more than £4,000m. The fall in the February money supply figures during a period when there was a positive inflow across the exchange suggests that DCE after 10 months is probably well under £5,000m.

MONEY SUPPLY

The following are the figures, released for the monthly amount of the money stock, seasonally adjusted at the mid-month make-up date. M3 is now taken as "sterling M3" and excludes UK residents' deposits in other currencies.

	M1 £000m	M3 £000m	Percentage change over 3 months at annual rate	M3 £000m
1976				
Feb	16.9	37.0	21.4	n.a.
Mar	17.0	37.0	18.3	10.0
Apr	17.4	37.4	29.6	11.3
May	17.4	37.7	11.8	7.9
June	17.2	37.2	3.6	8.3
July	17.7	37.4	8.3	11.4
Aug	18.0	38.0	16.9	15.1
Sept	18.5	39.9	33.3	22.2
Oct	18.1	50.1	10.1	18.4
Nov	18.3	40.4	7.0	14.4
Dec	18.5	40.2	3.7	4.9
1977				
Jan	18.2	38.8	1.8	-5.0
Feb	18.4	39.3	1.9	-10.2

Financial Editor, page 27

Leyland rejects call for refunds to distributors

By Clifford Webb

Leyland Cars management reacted angrily last night to a demand that it should help its hard-pressed dealers by refunding the £50m deposited with the company for cars the group had not built and could not deliver.

Mr Ronald Sewell, a business consultant who claims to have several hundred dealers and distributors and dealers as clients, said refunds were urgently needed because weeks of uncertainty had left many dealers highly vulnerable to comparatively small changes in their cash situation.

Most of the money had been borrowed by dealers in the first place and this affected their further borrowing credibility. If a dealer wanted additional money for obtaining increased stocks for car trading he could find himself stretched beyond the normal rules that govern sensible borrowing.

But Mr Keith Hopkins, sales and marketing director of Leyland Cars, described this as "ridiculous scaremongering by someone who should know better."

He said there was no question

of dealers having paid for cars they had not received. It was true that dealers were very short of stocks, but despite this present amounted to 180 per cent of the deposits paid.

He said "only one or two distributors" had made inquiries about refunds. Against this there had been hundreds of telephone calls and telegrams pleading full support in the present crisis.

Distributors are required to deposit an amount equivalent to between 12.5 per cent and 13.5 per cent of their sales in the previous year. They, in turn, require their dealers to make a contribution.

On Wednesday, Mr Derek Whitaker, managing director of Leyland Cars, told the Trade and Industry Sub-Committee of the Commons Committee on Expenditure that between 50 and 60 dealers had left the company in the past 12 months.

It is apparent that while some left because of unsatisfactory supplies, more did so because they did not fit into the reorganized network now being planned by Mr Hopkins.

BP profits up but below market expectations

Higher taxation resulting from the build-up of the North Sea Forties field has again hit British Petroleum's profits.

Fourth quarter net income of £36m was some way below best City expectations, but the shares managed to recoup some of their earlier loss to close at a net 2p down at 88½p on the stock market.

Net income for the year was £35m ahead of 1975 at £180m on sales up from £7,781m to £10,581m.

BP said yesterday that oil product prices were slow to react to the October 1975 crude oil price increases and the group failed to recover rises in crude costs until well into 1975.

However the improvement in world industrial production resulted in a rise in product demand, with sales, including chemicals, increasing from 87.6 million to 96.2 million tonnes.

Financial Editor, page 27

The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust

Abstract of Audited Accounts

For The Year Ended 31 December 1976

(£)	Reserve Fund	Provision for Grants
As at 31 December 1975	348,691	327,926
Income from investments	303,321	—
Grants authorised (net)	—	133,302
	653,012	461,230
Less:		
Administrative payments	45,494	—
Grants authorised (net)	133,302	—
Grant payments	—	174,608
	178,798	174,608
As at 31 December 1976	474,216	286,622

GEOFFREY LORD Secretary and Treasurer

Comely Park House,

Dunfermline, Fife KY12 7EJ.

9 March 1977

Germany and America disagree about duration of proposed new body to aid countries in deficit Scheme for setting up \$10,000m world 'creditors club'

By David Blake

Economics Correspondent

There is now an international consensus that the rich countries of the world should set up a "creditors club". This would raise at least \$10,000m to help to tackle the problem of countries falling into payments difficulties.

But differences remain about whether the organization should be a purely temporary structure aimed at dealing with liquidity difficulties, or whether it ought to try to solve longer-term structural problems.

In either case, the Saudi Arabians, who have already been sounded out by Dr Johannes Witteveen, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, are expected to play a key role.

Trying to find agreement on the exact nature of the problem the new body should tackle, and the organizational structure which is most appropriate, is expected to play an important part in the forthcoming meeting of the IMF

interim committee in Washington on April 28 and 29 and at the May summit of leaders of Western industrial countries in London.

The idea of having a much greater official presence in the financing of the deficits of developing countries and the deficit nations within the Western industrial world, seems to have been accepted in principle by all countries including the United States and West Germany, who might be expected to be the largest contributors.

However, differences remain over how long the problem is likely to last. The Germans are believed to feel that the current deficit problems of a number of countries both within the 24-nation industrial grouping which makes up the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and in the developing world are temporary financing problems of the sort which can be dealt with in the format of the IMF's existing lending system.

This framework, which essentially calls on countries to return to balance on their current account within five years, is seen by both the Germans and IMF staff as being necessary to avoid a new boost to world inflation.

It is thought that a new series of IMF papers on the world economy, which have been circulated to directors of the fund, are broadly consistent with the belief that the problems of financing for deficit countries are largely temporary.

Dr Witteveen is thought to have expressed this view in talks with the German government recently on his return from a visit to Saudi Arabia. These talks were central in Germany's acceptance of the need for a new initiative.

Because of this analysis, the Germans and the fund are thought to be pressing for the new "creditors club" to be a short-lived affair, like the \$5,000m fund which was set up in the IMF as the "oil facility"

after the increase in oil prices in 1973.

Under their ideas, it is thought that the creditor countries might agree to open a special account with the fund which would give that organization the necessary financial resources to undertake a continued programme of lending to countries which face short-term problems.

Such a scheme is thought to be of particular importance because of the need to back up commercial bank lending with official assistance which is tied to conditions on the use of money.

Most European countries, however, seem to feel that the German analysis underestimates the scale and likely duration of the problem. According to this view, which is shared by some but not all in the United States Administration, the problem of deficits in both the smaller members of the OECD and in the developing world is not a transitional one and thus a temporary solution will not suffice.

These countries, which include the United Kingdom, Italy and, it is believed, The Netherlands and France, feel that there is a need for a wholly new organization which would be set up permanently. This organization would have as participating members those countries willing and able to contribute money to deal with payments problems.

The United Kingdom might join when North Sea oil gives it a surplus on its payments account. But it is thought that the lending which would result would be more inclined towards a "programme" approach aimed at building up economies rather than providing finance while tough restraint was applied to get the balance of payments into surplus.

The likely large contributors to this fund would be the same as in the IMF/German short-term scheme.

All the lending of such an organization would be done either through the IMF or the

world bank, but it would have a staff which would allow it to evaluate applications for loans. In the German scheme decision-making power would probably flow from the barrel of the pen which writes the cheques setting up the organization. This would give the Saudi Arabians a major say, allowing them power without involvement in questions of IMF quotas, where a large share might be over- visible.

It is the more ambitious permanent scheme would be to set up, there would be not much case for restricting it to \$10,000m. It might instead involve larger sums over the years ahead, and could conceivably borrow in international financial markets knowing that its backers made it the most reliable name in the market.

Also, it might lead some Opec countries to make direct loans to deficit nations which were tied in with the terms agreed by the new body.

Consortium in £90m iron ore project

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

Investment of £90m is to be made by a consortium of British and foreign companies on Tyneside in an iron ore direct reduction plant.

Agreement has been reached in principle to go ahead with the plant, which will be located at Jarrow Slake Partnership agreement and financial arrangements have still to be completed, but the participants, led by Consolidated Gold Fields and Shearman Steel, expect to sign contracts later this year, when construction will begin.

The plant, North Sea Iron, will begin operations in 1979 and employ 150 people to produce 800,000 tonnes of iron ore briquettes as feedstock for electric arc steel furnaces.

The decision to go ahead follows three years of discussions. Iron ore, brought in from South America and South Africa, will be reduced to briquettes form using North Sea gas. The plant's equipment will be built mainly in Britain with the German engineering group GHR acting as designer and primary contractor.

Discussions are proceeding between the consortium and the Department of Industry on the possibility of selective financial aid towards the cost of the project under the Industry Act, and whether it will qualify for regional development grants.

Consolidated Gold and the Canadian-based Shearman Steel will together hold a 60-70 per cent interest and Fiat's metals division will have a 12.5 per cent stake. Other participants are Manchester Steel, a subsidiary of a Norwegian steel company, and Tube Investments.

By Nicholas Hirst
The Office of Staff Superannuation Fund is pulling out of a £25m new town development it had agreed to finance because of problems with the Development Land Tax Act, which could have wide-ranging implications for the property market.

As a result of the fund's last-minute decision, the Department of the Environment has had to step in with a bridging loan to allow the development at Washington New Town to proceed.

The problem clause in the Act is paragraph 26 of the second schedule, which the fund claims would reduce the

Suits advisers and new director in City war of words over Sir Hugh's Lomrho deal

By Richard Allen

A storm of controversy broke out in the City and Parliament yesterday over the share deal which gave Lomrho effective control of Scottish & Universal Investments.

Institutional investment chiefs and MPs voiced their anger, Suits' financial advisers, Robert Fleming, took the surprise step of publicly dissociating itself from the deal which brought Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the Lomrho chief, to the chair of the diversified Scottish group.

The merchant bank said that Suits had acted against its advice by appointing Mr Rowland and two other Lomrho directors, Mr F. A. Butcher and Mr T. R. Prentice, to the Suits board, after Sir Hugh Fraser's personal sale of a 24 per cent stake in the group to Lomrho.

Fleming said that it was not criticising any of the personalities involved in the deal but that it felt further time should have been taken in considering the appointments. "We have a duty to all shareholders", a spokesman said.

However, the announcement immediately brought a furious



Sir Hugh Fraser: buying Lomrho shares.

reaction from one of the three incoming directors, Mr Fred Butcher, who declared: "This is the first time I have ever known a merchant bank to discuss its clients' affairs in public."

"To me it's a change in City practices which I deplore. They talk about the so-called unacceptable face of capitalism; this appears to be the unacceptable face of certain banks."

Meanwhile, institutions who have been grasping strongly for boardroom changes at Suits ever since last year's admission

of an accounting error and the subsequent Stock Exchange inquiry into Sir Hugh Fraser's personal share dealings, reacted with predictable anger.

Many institutions are openly hostile to the Lomrho "style of business" and see Sir Hugh's decision to sell the majority of his own family interests to Lomrho as a symptom of his lack of concern for the City point of view.

Mr P. Linaker, a director of M & G, which holds about 3 per cent of Suits' equity, said yesterday: "We haven't been too keen on 'Tiny' Rowland for a long long time and we don't welcome a development like this."

In the Commons the deal was described as a "shotgun marriage" by Mr Dennis Canavan, MP for Stirling-shire West. It was a "marriage of convenience", he said, "between the unacceptable face of international capitalism in the form of Mr Tiny Rowland and the unacceptable face of Scottish capitalism in the form of Sir Hugh Fraser."

Sir Hugh, who remains deputy chairman of Suits, last night defended the share sale

and declared that he would be investing some of the cash raised in Lomrho shares.

Referring to the resignation of Mr Alex Mackenzie, who came onto the board apparently as a result of institutional pressure, Sir Hugh said: "He wanted another two or three days to look at the situation. He came in to help Hugh Fraser and felt there is not now the same necessity to help. No one else is going."

Asked if his decision to reduce his personal holding had come about because of institutional pressures following the share dealings controversy, he said: "Don't rule that out. You take a company's profits from £1m to £5m and make a fortune. You take a company's profits from £1m to £5m and make a fortune. You take a company's profits from £1m to £5m and make a fortune."

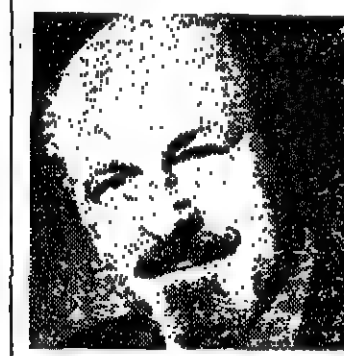
Although the institutions are expected to hold discussions before deciding what action to take, fears of a sell-off by some holders weakened Suits shares in yesterday's stock market dealings. Suits closed 3p lower at 78½p—some 17p less than the price Lomrho paid for Sir Hugh's holding. Lomrho closed 1p lower at 80p.

Sir Arthur Hawkins to retire early

By Roger Violevo

Sir Arthur Hawkins, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board and one of the staunchest opponents of advancing the £500m order for Drax B power station, is retiring in mid-May—six weeks earlier than planned.

The early retirement, prompted by Sir Arthur himself, is being seen in the power generation industry as another indicator that the Government is about to approve early ordering of the second stage of the coal-



Sir Arthur Hawkins

burning power station at Drax to prevent widespread unemployment among electrical engineers and boiler-makers in the North-East and Scotland.

Earlier this week government officials asked C. A. Parsons and Babcock & Wilcox again to hold off issuing redundancy notices, this time until the end of the month in the hope of a favourable Cabinet decision on Drax.

Sir Arthur, explaining his retirement said: "Major investment decisions need to be taken in the early part of the new financial year." It was right, he said, that such decisions should be made with Mr Glynn England, his successor, in the chair. Mr England is at present chairman of the South-Western Electricity Board.

Details of CU bid expected today

By John Brennan

Insurance Correspondent

Final details of a £42m share bid for Estates House Investment Trust were being hammered out last night by Commercial Union's financial advisers, Kleinwort Benson. Formal details of the offer, fore-shadowed in Business News on Tuesday, are expected today.

One of the worst-kept secrets in the market sent Estates House's shares up a further 14p to 26½p yesterday—a rise of 31p since last Friday.

CU, which is understood to be talking in terms of an offer

around the 260p mark—less than a 10 per cent discount to Estates House's net assets—also enjoyed support in the market yesterday.

The shares rose 4p to 13½p as dealers consider the impact of the deal on the group's solvency margins, which stand well below the sector average at 30 per cent of last year's £1,149m premiums.

Estates House, formed by the merger of the 19 investment and dealing companies left after the eclipse of the late Sir Denys Lawson's financial empire, holds around 52 per cent of its £48m

assets in cash or near cash holdings, with the rest in conventional marketable equities and Government stocks.

Slater, Walker Securities is understood to be the largest single shareholder in Estates House with just under 20 per cent of its ordinary shares.

CU, which declined to discuss the deal yesterday, would improve its overall solvency margin by only around 3.5 points if it is able to acquire Estates House exclusively for shares. Thus the offer does not rule out the possibility of a rights issue or further bids this year.

EEC steel crisis plan approved

Luxembourg, March 17.—The

consultative committee of the European Coal and Steel Community today broadly approved the European Economic Community programme to combat the steel crisis.

Viscount Etienne Davignon, Commissioner for Industry, told the group of coal and steel producers, consumers, traders and union officials, the commission wanted minimum prices on reinforcing bars.

He said it would be appropriate to require importers to apply for licences.

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How the markets moved

The Times index: 176.23+2.14

The FT index: 433.8+5.8

Rises

Asi Port Comt	5p to 134p
Boat	5p to 160p
Churchbury Est	5p to 182p
Churchbury Est	14p to 260p
Fulley J	8p to 210p
Gallenkamp	8p to 178p
Hay's Wharf	7½p to 94½p
Imp Cont Gas	15p to 39p
Matthews W'son	5p to 246p

Falls

French T	4p to 45p
Gill & Duffus	3p to 20p
Hill C Bristol	2½p to 12½p
Jardine N'son	5p to 285p

Equities were in demand.

Gold-edged securities had gains of over 1%.

Sterling was 5 pips down at \$1.7190.

The effective rate was 61.5 per cent.

Moran	10p to 22½p
Press V	6p to 54p
Rio Tinto Zinc	6p to 22p
Sale Tinto	28p to 168p
Sedg Forbes	10p to 287p
Shellbear	5p to 31p
Thorn Electric	12p to 24p
Uldom Test	2p to 25p
Wesley Hughes	8p to 130p
Yule Cato	6p to 57p

French T	4p to 45p
Gill & Duffus	3p to 20p
Hill C Bristol	2½p to 12½p
Jardine N'son	5p to 285p

Gold was \$1.71 at \$148.875.

SDBR-E was 0.672967.

Commodities: Cocoa prices advanced strongly.

Reuters' index was at 1748.5 (previous 1742.7).

Reports, pages 28 and 30

THE POUND

Bank	Bank
buyers	buyers
1.62	1.57
Australia \$	30.50
Belgium Fr	65.25
Canada \$	1.85
Denmark Kr	10.40
Finland Mk	6.75
France Fr	8.80
Germany Dm	4.28
Greece Dr	65.00
Hongkong \$	7.75
Italy L	1550.00
Japan Yn	305.00
Netherlands Gld	4.45
Norway Kr	9.31
Portugal Esc	68.50
Spain Ptas	163.00
Sweden Kr	7.33
Switzerland Fr	4.56
US \$	1.76
Yugoslavia Dnr	34.50

Rates for small denominations bank notes only as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

On other pages

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Next stage for the money supply

All eyes yesterday were on the continuing downward path of Treasury Bill yields, and these were soon pointing to a potential three-quarter rather than half point drop in MLR today. With the discount market caught short of funds—likely to its surprise—the Bank was duly able to deliver a "cool it" signal by forcing the houses to borrow at MLR for seven days. But it remains to be seen if the Bank does in fact have a big and heavy enough stick to wield at the moment to hold rates where it would like at today's weekly tender.

If it does not, then it seems clear that exceptional circumstances will once more be the order of the day and the Bank will invoke its right to lower MLR by just the amount it considers appropriate and no more.

Meanwhile, the February money supply figure showed, if anything, rather a smaller drop in money supply than the order of the day and the Bank will invoke its right to lower MLR by just the amount it considers appropriate and no more.

What is clear is that from here on the money supply trend will once again be upwards. And, in spite of the continuing fall in interest rates, the balance in the gilt-edged market will start to become very much more delicate.

Unit trusts

Hard times

If further evidence were required that the unit trust industry is unwise to rely on its direct sales of units to the public, this is provided by the industry's February sales figures. Net sales were a mere £2.9m and had it not been for the steady support of unit-linked sales the industry would have been experiencing a net outflow of funds—as it probably would have done last autumn. Nevertheless, I was a little harsh last month when on February 22 we said that the unit trust industry would have been in a net redemption position were it not for the saving grace of linked life assurance sales. The industry is right to point out that in 1976 it has despite the big increase in linked life sales, 48 per cent of net sales did in fact come from direct sales of units to the public.

Lex Service

Making sense

Investing its traditional passenger car business into employment agencies, hotels, truck sales, express parcels delivery and plant hire gave Lex Service Group the fashionable appearance of a growth stock in the early 1970s. But short-term borrowings taken on to fund that growth nearly killed the group in 1973-74, and since the market has been unkindly to failed glamour acts, Lex's shares spent the year of 1974 and early 1975 lying around at all time low of 6p, less than 3 per cent of



Mr David Steel, chairman of British Petroleum: further boost for Forties in 1977.

their peak value three years earlier. Thus, pre-tax profits for 1976 well above the most generous market expectations at £7.84m have to be seen against the troubled background of recent years. Recovering profitability is easier than recovering a market image and to reinstate Lex as a respectable institutionally-backed share will take time and a continued de-rating programme. Even after debt restructuring, which has cut short-term borrowings and bank overdrafts from £7.7m to £1.7m, overall borrowings are marginally up on 1975's £46.8m, standing then at over 300 per cent of net shareholders funds.

At 53p, up 1p on the results, the shares stand on an historic p/e of 8.1 and yield 4.2 per cent twice covered. The rating, understandably, in view of Lex's recent history, takes a cautious view of the future. It is too, but perhaps the market misses the point that the newly acquired Lex of the early 1970s is now beginning to make sense as a well spread group.

Final: 1976 (1975)
Capitalization £22m (£190.9m)
Turnover £251.5m (£190.9m)
Pre-tax profits £7.84m (£4.09m)
Earnings per share 8.71p (3.09p)
Dividend gross 4.5p (2.32p)

BP

Hurt by high tax

It's as well British Petroleum's share rating transcends the immediate past and future earnings picture since fourth quarter net income has remained in the same rut as the third and with little hope for much improvement in crude oil sales and product prices for the next six months the outlook is unexciting.

Fourth quarter net profits, then, of £50m were less than a tenth ahead of the previous quarter and full year net income only £35m higher than the year before at £179.8m came at the very bottom end of outside estimates.

Absence of any currency profits which helped along the previous three quarters and the continuing charges on BP's £500m or so borrowings rise to fund Alaska and the North Sea clearly take some of the shine off the fourth quarter. But the chief culprit is again the much higher taxation and depreciation charges resulting from the build-up of North Sea activity. BP is now charging petroleum revenue tax and depreciation on a straight barrel basis and with output of 400,000 barrels a day in the final quarter the fourth quarter net charge of £76m is

almost half as much again as the previous three quarters.

Although crude oil through-put last year ended slightly ahead of BP's expectations, the current year is being dragged back by BP's lack of access to lower-priced Saudi oil which can only work against product margins. The shares, however, took the results largely in their stride, pulling back a 10p fall for a net loss of only 2p to 88p, on the by-now familiar grounds that BP has more going for it than just the trading oil.

Forties is building up to 500,000 bpd. Alaska is on schedule to start contributing to profits in mid-year and the North Slope could get an extra fillip if President Carter's new energy policy favours domestic crude production. United States buying, however, has dried up for the moment and with Wall Street falling back there are still doubts over the placing of the government stake, and of the government's own earnings projections have been trimmed back to around 100p a share this year so Shell may continue to perform better in the stock market.

Final: 1976 (1975)
Capitalization £3420m
Sales £10,581m (£7,781m)
Net income £179.8m (£144.9m)
Earnings per share 8.71p (3.09p)
Dividend gross 30.44p (27.66p)

Slater, Walker

Option money

There are two ways of looking at Slater, Walker Securities now. The first is that the group is still making hefty losses in consequence, principally of a high preponderance of low-yielding investments at a time of high interest rates. Proponents of that view claim in their support the £3.74m in property losses, the non-recurring and miscellaneous debt of £557,000—partly a reflection of the reorganization of the unit trust business, but partly, too, a provision in relation to one particular asset on which the group has now downgraded its hopes of recovery—and the £1.49m loss on exchange, which is mainly a reflection of the impact of sterling depreciation (to the middle of last year only) on foreign currency loans.

And they point in addition to the fact that the insurance companies are still rebuilding their reserves, and—though profitable—are paying no dividend to their parent; and the fact that the banking division—though underwritten by the Bank of England's £40m guarantee—is out of the count in profit terms for the foreseeable future.

Proponents of the second view point out that the group has taken all the sick and noted of the parlous in preparing these half-year figures: in particular, it has not taken in the £696,000 profits on the disposal of dealing and investment properties during the period, it has not capitalized the £1.44m interest cost on development properties, and it has not taken in the £7m paper profit on last autumn's loan stock redemptions.

Both sides agree that there is no prospect of a return to dividends in the foreseeable future, and that the shares, unchanged at 9p yesterday, represent little more than option money. They have been as high as 12p quite recently; they could quite easily go there again—but for myself, I'd rather have a quiet life and leave them alone for the moment.

Interim: 1976 (1975)
Capitalization £6.75m
Net loss £6.34m (£22.22m)
Dividend gross nil (3.66p)
Pre-tax profit.

Mounting concern is showing itself at the developing nations' heavy dependence on the international money markets and the resulting growth in their prospective indebtedness.

There is now widening agreement among bankers, economists and government officials that the fragile and haphazard arrangements which have served to finance the yawning foreign trade deficits of the non-oil exporting nations of the Third World for the past three years must be replaced by something more reliable and permanent.

The problem of large trade deficits among these countries, it is now realized, will be with us for a long time. Therefore short-term institutional innovations or international bank credits provide no adequate solution. Dr Arthur Burns, chairman of the United States Federal Reserve Board, voiced his fears on this score last week before a Senate Banking Committee.

The delay in tackling this problem has only allowed trouble to build up. There are several reasons why this has happened. One of them is that several influential members of the United States Administration remained determined to "roll back", at least partially, the rise in world oil prices.

In addition, there was a widely held view—particularly in the higher echelons of the International Monetary Fund—that many developing countries needed to make painful economic adjustments to take account of the higher costs of energy. It was accepted that this would be a slow process and meanwhile temporary help should be given by special lending operations like the IMF Oil Facility. But, of course, there had to be a limit to the amount of money readily available in this way if pressure was to be applied to the non-oil exporting poor countries to take the internal measures deemed to be necessary, like cutting imports and scaling down development plans.

Indeed, this is why Dr Johannes Witteveen, managing

director of the IMF, has expressed disapproval at the heavy lending of the commercial banks to finance the deficits of the Third World nations. He would prefer that the banks coordinated their lending much more closely with the IMF's own activities.

But, at the same time, the fact that the banks appeared to be coping with the strains of recycling the financial surpluses of the oil exporters to the needy, reduced the urgency that had initially existed.

It was also important in this respect that the overall surplus of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries had appeared to be diminishing. This suggested that the world was adjusting to the post-1973 position. The Opec surplus was cut in half between 1974 and 1975. However, it increased sharply again last year and now seems likely to prove more sustainable than previously thought.

In spite of the economic adjustments that the non-Opec developing countries have made, or are making, their aggregate external position remains serious. In the three years 1974-76, they have had to find a total of some \$125,000m (nearly £74,000m) to meet the bill for their current account deficits and amortization on external debt. The annual shortfall is now close to treble that of earlier years, and the projected deficit, on this basis, for 1977 is again expected to exceed \$40,000m.

As a result of these deficits and the form in which they have been financed, the outstanding debts of some countries have risen alarmingly, with all the attendant dangers of a rise in defaults. The combined external debt of the non-Opec developing countries is estimated to have reached \$180,000m by the end of 1976, having doubled in about four years.

Still more worrying, some \$75,000m of this total outstanding debt is owed to the banks, which means that it has been borrowed on commercial terms—that is, tougher terms than on loans from international agencies or on bilateral governmental development loans, which have in previous years provided the bulk of the poor nations' financing needs.

Taking the strain of the Third World's mounting debts

THIRD WORLD'S TRADE BILL (\$000m)

	Actual			Projected	
	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Gross needs					
Exports	63	94	92	108	115
Imports	67½	118	121	126½	135
Trade balance	-4½	-22	-29	-20½	-18
Services, etc	-2½	-5	-7	-8½	-10
Current-account	-7	-27	-36	-29	-28
Debt amortization	-8½	-9½	-10½	-12½	-14½
Total needs	-15½	-36½	-46½	-41½	-42½

For, as their trade deficits have widened, this traditional form of assistance has proved grossly inadequate, and the private commercial banks have filled the breach. Direct bank lending and Eurocurrency loans now account for getting on for half of the gross annual sums required by the non-oil exporting nations of the Third World. As a result, the banks are now estimated to account for some 40 per cent of these countries' outstanding debts, compared with less than 10 per cent of a much smaller total in 1970.

Opinions differ greatly about just how serious this situation is, both for the banks and the developing countries. Certainly, concern is greater within the monetary authorities than among the banking fraternity. The nightmare that haunts the monetary officials is of simultaneous defaults on debt payments in several key developing countries, leading to a loss of confidence in western banks.

But, even if they so desired, the banks cannot quickly reduce the size of their lending to the Third World lest such action might itself precipitate payment troubles among client nations. Indeed, the developing countries may, before long, be seeking to borrow even larger sums to enable them to meet repayments of earlier debts.

None the less, the more fearful officials believe that the banks must restrict, or even refuse, further lending to these countries as soon as this is feasible; while ban-

kers have felt obliged to impose firm credit ceilings on borrowers. There is a possibility that such an increase in economic activity in the industrialized nations could intensify competition for bank funds, reducing the sums available to the less credit-worthy developing countries. But such an upturn in economic activity would at least imply greater demand for the raw material exports of developing countries which would increase their earnings from trade.

A reduction in the provision in bank funds, coinciding with a downturn in international trade, would indeed create a parlous situation. For some developing countries, total external debt amounts to between 25 and 30 per cent of gross national product, and is equivalent to several years' exports.

Some Latin American countries now have a debt service ratio of between 30 and 40 per cent. This is a key indicator used by the World Bank and other agencies to assess annual debt interest and amortization payments as a proportion of exports. Four countries—North Korea, Zaire, Argentina and Peru have all faced debt problems in recent months. Several other countries, like Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia, South Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines, are being watched closely.

But this general anxiety is certainly not shared by all observers. Some bankers actually believe the banks to be in a good position to expand their loans to some developing

countries still further. They note that among United States banks the ratio of loans to equity—an inverse indicator of lending capacity—has declined considerably since 1974. This does not, of course, provide an indication of willingness to lend. Yet, contrary to popular belief, the evidence suggests that international lending is a good deal less risky than domestic United States lending.

Moreover, the bulk of Third World debts are owed by countries with the greatest growth potential or mineral wealth—and thus the greatest ability to repay.

The simplest solution to the general debt problem would be for the industrialized nations to step up their foreign aid and increase the money available to the international aid agencies, thereby reducing the need for bank cash.

An alternative is the solution wanted by some of the developing countries—a moratorium on debt repayments. Yet, while special arrangements might be made for the very poorest nations, it is clear that no generalized moratorium will be conceded by the industrialized nations either in regard to official debt or bank debt.

For their part, many bankers would like to become more involved with the World Bank and IMF in financing the needs of the developing countries. They feel that the lending risks would be diminished if they directed a greater proportion of their funds to "project" finance in joint ventures with the World Bank, rather than in general balance of payments support. In this way the banks would both gain from the World Bank's expertise in project appraisal and achieve greater control over the way the money is spent.

Similarly, joint lending with the IMF would provide greater security because of the more stringent conditions applied to IMF credits. However, it is just because of their dislike of such financial and economic conditions that developing countries have forgone some of the money available to them at the IMF and chosen to borrow from the banks instead.

No agreed solution is anywhere in sight.

Melvyn Westlake

Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

On the crest of a wave with the Piezoelectric effect

Like waves on the sea or ripples on a pond, solid objects, too, can experience deformation which appears to flow along their surface. Lord Rayleigh explained this in 1885 in relation to earthquakes; American scientists applied it to experimental electronic devices in the 1960s; and a British company has recently taken the technique out of the laboratory and into volume production and world markets.

The artefacts with the rippling surfaces are known as surface acoustic wave (SAW) devices. They are small (though not as small as integrated circuits), are used in electronic circuitry (from military radars to domestic television sets) and they use a concept familiar from school physics examinations known as the piezoelectric effect.

Piezoelectric materials respond mechanically to an electric field and electrically to a mechanical force. In a quartz crystal clock, for example, the crystal is stimulated electrically to vibrate at a fixed frequency to provide accurate timekeeping.

In the new SAW devices the response is much more than a steady vibration. An incoming electrical signal is manipulated in various complex ways depending on the application. In filters for television re-

ceivers, for example, a single SAW device can replace a complicated circuit of discrete components, which might include about six coils needing to be tuned individually during assembly. The SAW filter needs no adjustment.

For radar systems, the new devices can manipulate the signal in ways that were not previously possible.

Plessey Semiconductors of Swindon, Wiltshire, part of the Plessey Microsystems division, now claims a world lead in going into production with SAW television filters. Behind this claim lies a "breakthrough" in technology at the group's Alan Clark Research Centre at Caswell, Northamptonshire.

Plessey began research work on surface acoustic waves at Caswell about seven years ago, without at that time knowing how important or relevant the development would be. A team of physicists, mathematicians and electronic engineers was assembled, led by Dr James Reighway.

Plessey Radar sponsored the original research, and support was later received from the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Industry.

In principle an SAW device consists of a "chip" of piezoelectric crystal (Plessey uses lithium niobate), on which are deposited two thin patterns of

aluminium. One acts as the input electrode and the other as the output with the surface wave travelling from the first to the second.

In practice, two main groups of problems have to be overcome. One is the basic but complicated task of writing and refining the computer programs that translate the desired function into a particular geometric pattern for each electrode.

The second group of problems is concerned with avoiding reflections and other unwanted parts of the wave.

At the output electrode the mechanical movement of the surface is converted back to its (now modified) electrical form. Manufacture of the SAW devices is broadly similar to that of integrated circuits, at least as far as the high-volume television filters are concerned. These are small and cheap (85p each at present), whereas the special-purpose devices for radar applications are much

larger and more expensive.

Radar was the first application for SAW to be identified by Plessey. Indeed, the group's AR1D three-dimensional radar, claimed to be the most advanced of its type in Britain, was made possible only by the SAW achievement at Caswell.

Other applications followed, and in particular the move into high-volume market for filters for television receivers. Over the past year about 100,000 units were produced at Swindon, where Dr Reighway is now leading the SAW design and manufacturing effort.

Plessey Semiconductors' order book for television filters is now close to one million units and production is expected to grow to more than 100,000 a month within the next year. Orders have been received from five television manufacturers, along with letters of intent to order from a further 15, all in Europe.

To cope with the rapidly

expanding demand, the company is following its integrated circuit practice and planning to use a Hongkong source for the assembly of the SAW filters, with Swindon concentrating on fabrication and testing.

Also, a collaborative agreement has been signed with Sasecom, the semiconductor division of Thomson-CSF in France, for the combined supply of certain SAW filters for the European television industry.

Over the next few years, it is envisaged, the world television industry will progressively move over to the use of SAW filters.

The range of potential uses is extremely wide. It includes television games, medical monitors and emergency radio beacons, specialized units for such esoteric military uses as electronic countermeasures and, inevitably, what are known as counter-counter-

Business Diary: Boarding parties • Sir Oliver's 300

w that Eric Varley has ended uncertainty surrounding the Steel Corporation's plans for Tulse and Stanton, he has advisers are having to wade up a list of candidates to the seats on the board which I become vacant at the end of the current financial year.

One of those leaving their seats is the former BSC chief executive, who has been in charge of the BSC subsidiary responsible for steel-making in the United Kingdom. Lord Layton, chairman of BSC (International), goes when his contract expires in May.

is will leave as full-time members, Sir Charles, the chairman, Bob, the chief executive, and David Waterstone, in charge of commercial policy. We will be no director responsible for the corporation's activities—vacancy has gone unnoticed by a Scottish TUC or Secretary Bruce Millan, course, it is difficult to replacements to a board salaries have been frozen early five years. There is, er, a promise of a review joined industry, board in the next phase of

Assuming that there will be some more money, who are the front runners?

Two names which are cropping up frequently in conversation these days are those of Frank Holloway and Gordon Sambrook. Holloway, who was managing director for supplies and production control, was involved in the corporation's most recent shake-up last November when the departure of Len Kingshott, managing director for finance, Holloway took on the enlarged job of managing director finance and supplies.

Sambrook, an old United Steel man, is at present managing director for personnel and social policy, a job which he took on from the corporation's canteen division.

Masterminded

Chartered surveyors are to become the City of London's first new livery company for 13 years. Theirs is the 85th gram—the last was the Scientific Instrument Makers.

There's a fellow outside protesting that he's a shareholder.

excuse for nights out with or without the wife, were originally trade associations. The "livery" or dress was to distinguish members of one trade from another when hardly anybody could read.

Although references to the companies go back to the twelfth century, the livery companies were established in 1728. The Grocers' second pegging with bad grace after a dispute of several centuries.

Full sale ahead

A party of Japanese arrives at Heathrow today to begin a three-week tour of British component manufacturers. They are guests of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and the British Overseas Trade Board and the hope is clearly that the 13—all senior purchasing directors in the motor industry—will place orders to help offset the big motor trade imbalance between the two countries.

But even before the visit starts the Japanese were at pains to point out that this should be looked upon as "a fact-finding" rather than a buying mission. Indeed, the sceptics are already suggesting

that it is another example of the Japanese putting on a show to sidetrack growing demands for import controls on their cars.

Whatever the real motives, tour leader Masao Nomura, managing director of Toyota's purchasing division, and his merry men are in for the hard sell from most of the 20 companies in their itinerary. The pace will be set by Harry Cressman, chairman of the BSC Group, which besides being one of the largest car retailers in the country also manufactures safety belts and other equipment through its Britax Windgard subsidiary at Chichester.

Cressman is collecting the party in a coach equipped with piped Japanese music interspersed with commercials about his wares. He has also laid on Japanese hostess-interpreters and a lunch at Goodwood House, the stately home of Lord March.

After they are nicely softened up with all this luxury, American-born Cressman will go for the kill with a line of Japanese cars and motor-cycles fitted with every conceivable BSG component.

There is no bed so low-lying that somebody somewhere can't find a red under it, but a news agency report Business Diary received yesterday went a little too far. It said of British Leyland that the cost to the company of the "roubles" so far this month was £100m in lost production. This was later amended to "troubles", no doubt on orders from the Kremlin.

Nordic Bank

Summary of Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1976

Balance Sheet	1976	1975
	£'000	£'000
Assets		
Cash at Banks, Money at Call and Short Notice, CD's and Bills of Exchange	48,769	65,875
Deposits with Banks	56,218	31,256
Quoted Securities	3,698	2,832
Loans and Advances Repayable within 1 year	90,623	59,334
Loans and Advances Repayable after 1 year	114,593	78,303
Customers' Liabilities for Acceptances	9,568	7,910
Other Assets	9,479	7,403
Total Assets	333,748	253,173
Less Liabilities		
Current and Deposit Accounts	293,323	218,976
Certificates of Deposit	3,923	2,595
Acceptances Payable	9,968	7,910
Other Liabilities	8,058	6,910
	315,272	236,391
Represented by Shareholders' Interest		
Share Capital	7,000	7,000
General Reserve	1,500	1,500
Retained Earnings	1,164	809
	9,664	9,309
Convertible Subordinated Loan 1987	8,812	7,413
	118,476	116,722
Profit and Loss Account	1976	1975
	£'000	£'000
Trading Profit for the year before Taxation and Interest on Subordinated Loan	1,573	2,092
Less Interest on Subordinated Loan	663	517
Profit before Taxation	910	1,575
Taxation	555	860
Profit after Taxation	355	715
Retained Earnings brought forward	809	94
Retained Earnings carried forward	1,164	809

Nordic Bank Limited

Shareholding Banks
Den norske Creditbank Oslo
Kansallis-Osake-Pankki Helsinki
Svenska Handelsbanken Stockholm

Nordic Bank House
41-43 Mincing Lane
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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Bank signal fails to deter the buyers

Spurred by the Leyland return and the prospect of still cheaper money, buyers came back in force to both the equity and gilt-edged markets.

In equities most of the action was packed into the pre-lunch session and by 1 pm the FT Index stood 6.7 ahead. Thereafter, Bank of England indications that it wanted no more than a nominal cut in the Minimum Lending Rate today tended to dampen enthusiasm, but by the close the index was still 5.8 up at a 40-month "high" of 433.8.

Dealers are now expecting a quarter or, possibly, half-point

Lec Refrigeration are now 70p and sell at probably 3½ times earnings. Last year, profits rose from £1.4m to at least £1.7m. At half-time, profits had gone ahead from £752,000 to £921,000. Lec is thought to be turning out all the commercial and domestic refrigerators it can make and exports, aided by the fall in sterling, have gone well, too.

MLR reduction, but most feel that interest rates still have some way to fall.

Though a little below their best at the end, gilts additionally helped by more encouraging money supply figures, had another strong day.

Long dates were up to one

and three quarter points firmer at one point, but eased back to finish one and a half points ahead. "Shorts" tended to hold on to their early rises rather better and closed between three quarters and a full point higher.

The Government's optimistic forecast of the pace of inflation by the end of the year was a help to both markets.

Strongest of the industrial leaders was Glaxo with a spurt of 10p to 495p, while Fisons added 6p to 359p and Unilever 4p to 478p.

In the food sector, Tate & Lyle rose 6p to 272p and Bejam 1p to 108p after statements on the previous day. It was another strong session for FMC which gained 8p to 110p on the back of the NFU-Borthwick tussle for its hand.

Stores continued to attract demand on the prospect of Budget tax cuts with Gus "A" 6p to 222p and Mothercare 6p to 252p particularly favoured.

The deal with Lonrho left Suits 3p lower at 78p. House of Fraser stayed firm at 90p.

Shares hoping to benefit from the recent moves on dividend restraint were James Finlay, up 8p to 210p, and Standard Chartered Bank which put on 10p to 330p. Guthrie rose 7p to 217p for the same reason.

The return to work recommendations helped British Leyland shares to add 3p, for a close of 28p, while elsewhere

in motors Lex Service were a penny ahead at 53p on figures. In oils, BP's figures failed to live up to expectations and the shares ended 2p easier at 88p after moving between extremes of 89p and 87p. Speculative interest helped Oil Exploration to add 7p to 92p.

In electricals, Thorn "A" was wanted on consumer considerations and rose 11p to 283p, while Wm Baird gained 8p to 124p on speculative interest.

William Press had no comment to make on market speculation of an impending bid. The favoured sutor is Winney with Trafalgar House also mentioned at a price of around 90p. The shares were one of the most active of the session and closed 6p up at 54p.

Wolsey-Hughes 8p to 136p and Coltness 1p to 34p were two shares mentioned here to go ahead on figures. Charles Hill, another mentioned, closed 22p off at 128p after trading between 115p and 165p on the chairman's statement concerning compensation.

On the bid scene Estates House Investment rose 14p to 260p on the approach forecast here, while Bridgewater gained 18p to 233p on the rejection of Rothschild. Patani Rubber put on another 10p, to 120p, on earlier news of an approach and there was speculative interest in Baker Perkins 5p to 82p and Jutra 12p to 45p.

In papers, De La Rue soared

25p to 360p on talk of the sale of its Formica interests. But the shares fell back to 340p, a net gain of 5p, after a denial. News of investment plans for the industry gave a firm look to chemical shares with Hickson & Welch up 7p to 113p and Yorkshire 6p to 146p ahead of today's figures. A 70 per cent rise in profits is expected. Arthur Bell rose 2p to 214p after figures with Distillers better by the same amount to 140p in sympathy. Others to move on profit statements were Thomas Tilling, up 4p to 85p, Pittard 1p to 53p, English Property 1½p to

46½p and Small & Tidmas 2p to 24p. Slater Walker were unchanged at 9p. A rights and dividend forecast had Sale Tilney 25p up at 168p. Equity turnover on March 16 was £80.27m (19,959 bargains). Active stocks yesterday according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, BAT, Debenhams, Thorn "A", Shell, BP, Distillers, Trafalgar House, Gus "A", Wm Press, Reed, Thorp ordinary, RTZ, Bass Charrington, Wm Baird, Sale Tilney, Estates House Investment, Bridgewater Investment, De La Rue, FMC and Chas Hill of Bristol.

Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Anglo Amn Inds (R1)	43½	41½	—	63½	63½
Arthur Bell (50p) Fin	1.15	1.15	6.12	5.38	5.38
BP (11) Fin	12.91	11.74	5/5	19.78	17.99
Bentley	1.88	1.68	16/3	1.68	1.68
William Collins (25p) Fin	2.35	2.17	30/6	4.15	3.77
Coltness Group (25p) Fin	0.81	0.74	27/5	1.83	1.48
English Property (50p) Fin	1.05	1.03	27/5	2.3	2.28
Gen Mining (R2) Fin	120	120	—	210	210
Gibbons Dredge (25p) Fin	2.46	2.34	13/5	3.36	3.03
Hepworth Ceramic (50p) Fin	1.12	1.08	3/5	2.13	1.93
HTV Group (25p) Int	2.5	1.5*	9/5	—	1.5*
Lex Service (25p) Fin	1.75	0.83	15/8	2.92	1.5
Macmillan-Glimph (25p) Int	1.37	1.27	13/4	2.48	2.25*
Platford Group (25p) Fin	1.48	1.42*	—	2.48	2.25*
Plantation Hldgs (10p) Fin	1.09	0.99	6/7	1.95	1.77
Refuge Assurance (5p) Fin	5.45	5.42	6/3	7.13	6.82
Sale Tilney (25p) Fin	2.46	2.25	8/6	4.73	4.32
Second City Trope (10p) Int	0.54	0.45	6/5	—	1.13
Sharpe & Fisher (25p) Fin	1.42	1.22	27/5	2.12	1.92
Francis Shaw (20p) Fin	2.35	2.14	1/7	2.35	2.14
John C. Small (25p) Fin	1.0	1.0	23/5	2.0	2.0
George Spencer (25p) Fin	1.98	1.29	—	2.97	2.58
Wolsey-Hughes (25p) Int	3.02	2.75	—	—	6.0
S. Woodward (12½p) Fin	1.3	1.3	25/4	1.7	1.7

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish shares multiply the net dividend by 1.54. * Adjusted for scrip. † Cents a share. ‡ As forecast.

Squaring circles at Hepworth Ceramic

By Nicholas Hirst

Hepworth Ceramic continues to square the circle by increasing profits in areas still suffering from falling volume. The £18.8m profit showing a 46 per cent increase on 1975 had its largest boost from an early pay-off from investment in mineral processing, but elsewhere gains again came from increasing productivity.

Volume in the refractories division was down but profits were up from £3.5m to £5.0m, while the temporary improvement in United Kingdom house building which began to run out from August kept output fairly static on the Clayware side.

Refractory demand is now beginning to pick up as the worldwide steel recession works

its way out but clay pipes demand is falling.

The Hepworth board, however, is confident of a further increase in profits this year. There will be a first time contribution from the American group, Dickey Clay, acquired in January. It made around £1.3m and further benefits are expected from mineral processing.

Capital investment of £18m is planned in the current year and acquisitions are actively looked for.

The group is anxious to increase its payout to shareholders but has no plans for a GEC-style payment from its current £18m cash balance. The rights issue route, though, is not ruled out.

Plantation Hldgs at peak with strides all round

By Tony May

With its Malaysian plantations making most of the running, Plantation Holdings ended 1976 with a 55 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to a record £3.5m. Of this, the improved prices, combined with exchange rate movements, combined to make it a record £2.4m, a jump of 56 per cent, while the British subsidiaries made £1.27m, or 36 per cent better. Turnover went up from £22.9m to £27.1m.

Earnings a share reached 4.7p, against 3.3p, and the

dividend is increased from 2.72p to 3p gross.

The board says that both rubber and palm oil prices increased during the year, but rubber ended below best. The improved prices, combined with exchange rate movements, combined to make it a record

At home, a substantial contribution was made by the scientific instruments group, reorganised in 1975. Its profits swelled from £383,000 to £847,000.

Midland chief's review

By Adrienne Gleeson

In his annual report to the chairman of Midland Bank, Lord Armstrong of Sandstead, attacks the idea of nationalising the big four clearing banks, and decries what he calls the Government's White Paper on the Licensing and Supervision of Deposit-taking Institutions. "We are not entirely convinced," he says, "that the clearing banks need contribute to a deposit protection fund". He also extends a welcome to the Wilson Committee of inquiry into the role of the City and its financial institutions, and reiterates the bank's view that it should not permit itself to be influenced in its business dealings by political considerations.

This last is a response to the statement by the GLC and other shareholders, sent out with the annual report, which attacks the bank for making loans to the Government of South Africa. The bank's accounts show that deposits increased last year from £9.213m to £10.441m, while shareholders' funds rose from £563m to £622m. Reflecting issues during the year, loan capital increased from £151m to £231m. The value of fixed assets rose from £279m to £300m.

Over 3,000 Lucas workers to be shareholders

More than 3,000 employees of Lucas Industries have applied for about one million ordinary shares under the recently announced Lucas Employees' Savings Related Share option scheme.

It is open to all employees with over 10 years service. They have been offered shares at a favourable price of 185p less 10 per cent. Yesterday the company's shares closed at 251p. Those taking part are required to enter into a five-year save-as-you-earn contract with a building society which calls for a fixed monthly payment of between £4 and £10. At the end of five years, the employee receives a tax-free bonus of 23.33 per cent of total contributions. By continuing for another two years he or she can increase this to 46.67 per cent. But at the end of seven years, he must exercise his option.

Conundrum of how well EPC has done

By John Brennan

Preliminary results from property companies were at one time the market's main yardstick of performance. Whatever the complexities of the reserve accounting, or the pace at which property deals making a non-sense of the bland pre-tax figures, share prices tended to move in line with reported profit figures.

Since the property crash in the winter of 1973 few companies in the sector continue to present preliminary results before publication of their accounts, and those who do tend to include relatively detailed figures of capitalised development outgoings. Interest charges treated outside the revenue account, and capital charges which would not otherwise appear in a pre-tax summary.

English Property, our second largest property group, feels able to ignore this charge. Itwards more realistic preliminary results. Reporting pre-tax profits for the year to October 31, 1976, of £7.45m—£2.2m better than in 1975—it might appear that EPC's revenue account has taken a turn for the better. In fact, any such judgment will have to await publication of the accounts at the end of this month.

EPC's reported pre-tax profits of £2.2m excluded £20.5m of capitalised interest charges. Mr David Llewellyn, the chief executive, admits that capitalised development outgoings increased in 1976, partly because of currency rate changes on its Canadian and European developments and partly because of terminal costs as the British development programme comes to an end.

He also feels that the renewed institutional interest in investment properties will be reflected in a better outlook for the industry and for EPC next year. But, unlike much of the rest of the sector, Mr Llewellyn is unwilling to quantify his enthusiasm at the preliminary stage. Shareholders can at least divine that they are to receive a dividend of 3.54p gross a share. But they will have to wait the accounts to see whether the £55m property sale to Eagle Star last May and the £20m sale of an 11 per cent stake in the Canadian subsidiary Trizec—whose profits are still fully consolidated—has had an impact on EPC's ability to pay that dividend.

Evidently EPC is now in a financially healthier position than 18 months ago. The Eagle Star and Trizec sales along with efforts to restructure its debt longer term will have improved last year's 463 per cent debt-to-net-equity ratio. But the cost of the disposal in reversionary terms is difficult, if not impossible, to calculate. True revenue performance, true asset figures and the true outlook remain, therefore, like the shares—speculative. The shares rose 1½p to 46½p on the results.

Peak profits and rights from Sale T

An 87 per cent jump in profits, a proposed rights issue and the forecast of a much bigger dividend spurred the shares of Sale Tilney by 39p to 168p yesterday.

In the year to November 30 turnover rose from £37.12m to £44.54m, while pre-tax profits jumped by 87.8 per cent to a record £1.28m. The total gross payment is being lifted from £64p to 7.28p, the maximum allowed. Sale's rights issue, to raise about £593,000, is on a one-for-three basis at 110p per share. As far as the current year is concerned, trading results are very encouraging and the board believes the group will have another successful year. It expects to pay total dividends for the year of 15.75p gross on the bigger capital. Treasury permission has been obtained.

Briefly

GEORGE SPENCER

Turnover for 1976 up from £3.38m to £10.5m, and pre-tax profits from £22,000 to £260,000. As forecast in successful defence of Nottingham Mfg bid, total gross payment is going up from 3.97p to 4.57p. One-for-three scrip issue planned.

HTV GROUP

Pre-tax profit for half-year to January 31 reached £1.12m (£556,000) after Exchequer levy of £1.32m (£920,000). Turnover rose from £5.47m to £9.39m. Dividend, 2.5p, against 1.5p adjusted for scrip issue.

FRANCIS SHAW

Last year, turnover slipped from £11.94m to £10.55m, but pre-tax profits rose from £422,000 to £431,000. Total gross payment goes up from 3.3p to 3.63p.

MOSS BROS.—POCO

Brookhouse Estates, a subsidiary of POCO Properties, has sold its holding of 178,700 shares in Moss Bros.

UNILEVER IN FRANCE

Unilever NV says it has agreed to buy an 80 per cent stake in the share capital of Fayard Et Ravel of France, a manufacturer of polyethylene film for packaging and other industrial uses.

PIRELLI RIGHTS

Pirelli SPA said it is going to proceed with a rights issue of 1,000 lire at par value of 1,000 lire from March 21 to April 22. Pirelli shares closed yesterday at 1,069 lire.

RUSH & TOMPKINS

Rush and Tompkins has bought 975,160 shares in Reed and Malik (28.3 per cent) from Hambro's. The purchase price is £1.5m. Reed to lapse on March 23. Reed's board recommends Rush offer.

SHARPE & FISHER

Sales for 1976 up from £10.29m to £13.79m, and pre-tax profits from £22,000 to £260,000. Total gross dividend, 3.66p (£26p).

ANGLO AMERICAN IND

Anglo American Industrial's operating turnover for 1976 fell from £366.2m to £318.37m and pre-tax profits from £68.75m to £66.1m. Total dividend raised from 63 to 65 cents per share.

GENERAL ELECTRIC

Coppenhall Nominees is the trustee for the sale and distribution of the net proceeds of the aggregate fractional entitlements arising out of GEC's issue of floating-rate unsecured capital notes, 1986. Laird Bros, of Coppenhall, has disposed of them at market value.

TOTAL-SLIMMA GROUP

Terms agreed on share alternative for Slimma Group with view to raising 1,000 per share cash alternative. Terms: eight thousand ordinaries for every three Slimma ordinaries.

MID-SUSSEX WATER

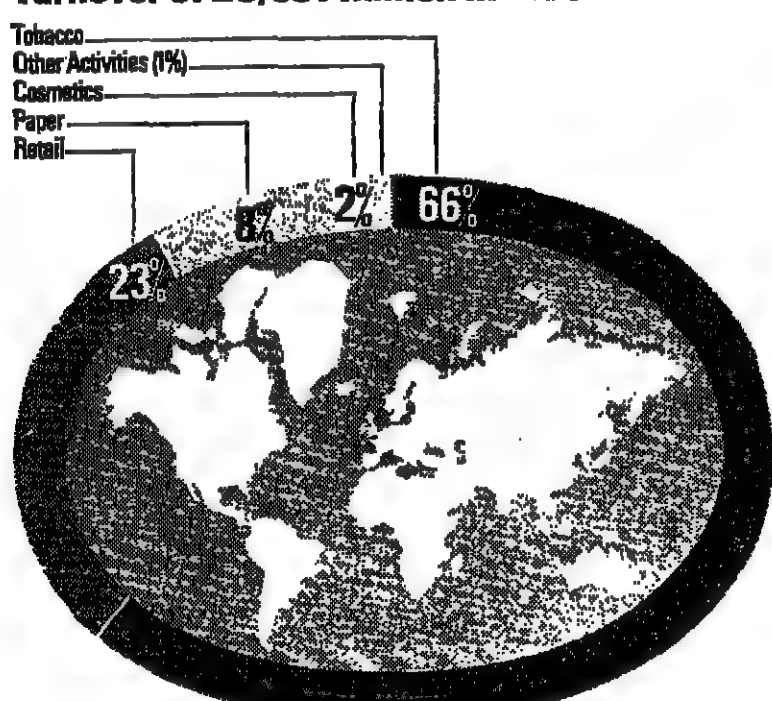
Brokers Deane, Murphy, Campbell, has arranged for a placing on behalf of Mid-Sussex Water of £3m 131 per cent redeemable debenture stock. Full details will be available on Monday, March 21.

FAC-BORTHWICK

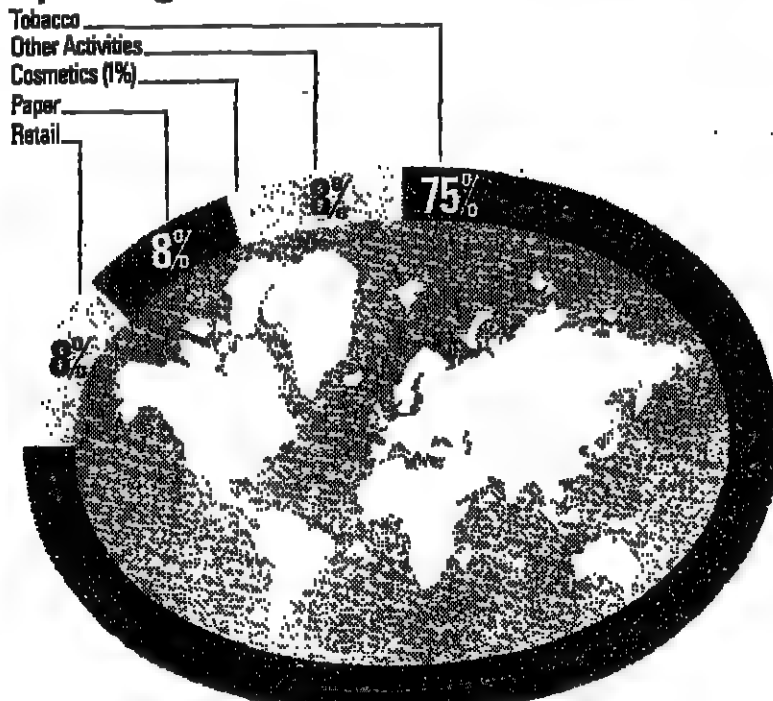
Morgan Grenfell has bought 100,000 shares in FMC, ranging from 92p to 102p, as an associate of Thomas Borthwick.

B.A.T Industries grows around the world

Turnover of £5,637 million in 1976



Operating Profit of £430 million in 1976



Total Assets of £3,122 million in 1976



"With turnover up by 32% and operating profit up by 31%. I feel I can claim a year of good trading despite the difficult economic conditions. The amount available for dividends and representing real growth in the business rose by 39% to £124 million.

Until recently, we were a tobacco company with diversified interests, but now we are the holding and managing company for the four operating divisions, of which Tobacco still remains the largest. The long term implications of the change are profound, particularly because the growth potential of B.A.T Industries is still considerable, both within the existing divisions and also, possibly, by the addition of new divisions as the base for further growth.

There are in the UK two major issues on which I wish to comment. On the Bullock Report it is vital and quite fundamental that worker representation should not be limited only to trade union members, but should embrace all employees.

Secondly, a number of people have reiterated that one cannot create a successful growth economy, regenerating and expanding its activities, without adequately recompensing people who exercise skill, ability and responsibility.

As regards Prospects, I expect a moderate improvement in profits attributable to B.A.T Industries in the current year, although the final outcome may be affected by further movements in exchange rates.

In the absence of unforeseen circumstances it is intended to pay dividends totalling 12.87p per Ordinary Share for the year to 30th September 1977. The opportunity for this 20% increase arose from the merger of BAT and TST as I had already indicated in my letter to Shareholders of 26th May 1976."

Peter Macadam, Chairman.

Group Profit Summary	1976	1975
Turnover	£5,637	4,262
Operating Profit	430	328
Profit before taxation	374	280
Net Profit attributable to B.A.T Industries—before inflation retention	170	145
after inflation retention	124	89
Dividends	36	30
Earnings per Ordinary Share	51.3	43.7

Cosmetics

The Cosmetics Division comprises Farley, Lanthier, Moncy, Germaine Monteil, Cyclax, Scandinavia, Tuvaché and Juvena. Turnover of £91 million in 1976 showed operating profit of £5.6 million from sales in 140 countries.

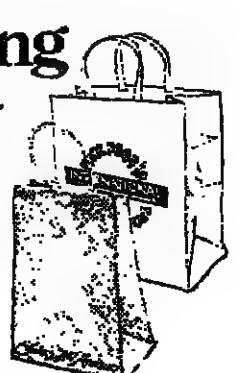


Tobacco

The Tobacco Division is the world's largest manufacturer of tobacco products, with a turnover of £3,753 million and an operating profit of £324 million in 1976. Over 300 cigarette brand names are in use throughout the world, and in addition an extensive range of smoking tobaccos, cigars and cigarillos is manufactured.

Retailing

The Group operates retail chains in the UK, USA and Brazil and has a 25% interest in Horden in Germany. Major subsidiaries are International Stores in the UK, Gimbel Brothers, Saks Fifth Avenue and Kohl's Corporation in the USA and Peco-Pag in Brazil. Turnover in 1976 was £1,282 million and operating profit £33 million.



Paper

The principal interest is Wiggins Teape, with 17 mills and factories in the UK, 5 in Continental Europe and others in Brazil, India and Africa. The Group holds a 25% interest in Associated Pulp and Paper Mills in Australia and jointly owns, with the Imperial Group, Mardon Packaging International in the UK. Total turnover was £467 million and operating profit £34 million in 1976.



B.A.T INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Tobacco · Retailing · Paper · Cosmetics · Worldwide

Copies of the Report & Accounts and the text of the Chairman's speech at the Annual General Meeting are available from The Secretary, B.A.T Industries Limited, Westminster House, 7, Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 3JF.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

JAMES LONDON COUNCIL
AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS
The Council has received the audit report of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 1977. The report is available for inspection at the Council Office, 10, Market Passage, Cambridge CB2 3QX, from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm on 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 March 1977. The report is also available for inspection at the Council Office, 10, Market Passage, Cambridge CB2 3QX, from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 March 1977. The report is also available for inspection at the Council Office, 10, Market Passage, Cambridge CB2 3QX, from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 March 1977. The report is also available for inspection at the Council Office, 10, Market Passage, Cambridge CB2 3QX, from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 March 1977. The report is also available for inspection at the Council Office, 10, Market Passage, Cambridge CB2 3QX, from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 March 1977. The report is also available for inspection at the Council Office, 10, Market Passage, Cambridge CB2 3QX, from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 March 1977. The report is also available for inspection at the Council Office, 10, Market Passage, Cambridge CB2 3QX, from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 March 1977. The report is also available for inspection at the Council Office, 10, Market Passage, Cambridge CB2 3QX, from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 March 1977. The report is also available for inspection at the Council Office, 10, Market Passage, Cambridge CB2 3QX, from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 March 1977. The report is also available for inspection at the Council Office, 10, Market Passage, Cambridge CB2 3QX, from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm on 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 2



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PUBLIC SERVICE OF VICTORIA AUSTRALIA

1329

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Applicants are invited to write to the General Manager, Hotel Inter-Continental, One Hamilton Place, Hyde Park Corner, London W1V 6VY enclosing details of their career to date.

HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL
ONE HAMILTON PLACE, HYDE PARK CORNER, LONDON, W1

مكاتب الأصيل

